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Daily Report
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FBIS-SOV-95-080 *26 April 1995*

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CIS Joint Chiefs Formed To Pressure NATO

MK2504121095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Ilya Bulavinov under the "CIS Military Cooperation" rubric: "There Is Nothing Like a Foreign Threat To Bring People Together"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the meetings of CIS defense ministers that took place last week were revealed to foreign military attaches accredited in Moscow by Lieutenant General Leonid Ivashov, secretary of the CIS Council of Defense Ministers, at yesterday's briefing in Moscow. To all appearances, the meeting was designed not only to brief the attaches on the results of the discussions, but also to warn them about a possible reaction to NATO's expansion by members of the CIS collective security treaty.

Noting that at their latest meetings the defense ministry heads left previous political rhetoric behind and got down to setting up a CIS security system, Leonid Ivashov told the military attaches that "a feeling of solidarity with regard to NATO and the treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe [CFE]" is becoming increasingly evident among the defense ministers. In fact, this means that the former USSR republics have defined their attitude to the bloc (Ivashov also recalled that even earlier the collective security treaty member countries saw the "Partnership for Peace" program as an alternative to the mechanical expansion of NATO). In addition, Moscow appears to have convinced its allies of the need to back a revision of flank limits imposed under the CFE that make it impossible for Russia to keep the requisite quantity of military hardware in the North Caucasus.

A question as to what the still fairly amorphous military alliance of CIS countries could counter NATO with was asked later, and, clearly, without any linkage to the problem of the alliance's expansion. Gen. Ivashov said that a decision in principle had been made to set up a Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of the CIS Armed Forces as part of the Staff for the Coordination of Military Cooperation. The committee, which will bring together chiefs of general staff of CIS national armies, will be tasked with "conducting profound analysis of program, theoretical, and practical matters and the coordination of the operations of CIS armies' staffs," Ivashov said. According to KOMMERSANT-DAILY's information, however, the committee will have even more sweeping powers, up to conducting joint operational planning and elaborating specific joint steps to ensure the Commonwealth's security. Obviously, the chief of the Russian General Staff will become head of the committee, at least for the next one or two years. Possibly, the decision on setting up the committee and its statute may be approved as early as next June, when a regular session of the Council of Defense Ministers is due to be held. The creation of this body (along with the gradual reconstruction of a single air-defense system) will become a major step in setting up a genuine security system in the post-USSR space and, hence, a real counterbalance to NATO.

Regarding the peacekeeping problem, Gen. Ivashov pointed out that a switch has become evident from "pressuring all countries" to participate in a peacekeeping effort (for instance, Belarus was asked to send its contingent to Tajikistan some time ago) to heeding "a balance of interests" between the CIS members. As regards an Abkhaz settlement, the general said that the Council of Defense Ministers had asked the heads of state to define the degree of each country's involvement in settling the conflict in Abkhazia (this is the official name of the conflict). They will have to choose between sending observers (Pavel Grachev has been complaining about a shortage of these), support units, or logistic support. As for Tajikistan, in the view of the defense ministers, the republic should take more effective steps on its own to stabilize the situation. As a matter of fact, the ministers heard a report by Sherali Khayrullayev, new Tajikistan defense minister, formerly deputy internal affairs minister of the republic.

But while the Tajik military have yet to prove that their ideas have any future prospects, a reaction from those for whom "the feeling of increasing solidarity" with regard to NATO and the CFE was meant will apparently come very soon, namely during the visits of Western heads of state to Moscow on 8-10 May.

Central Asian Interior Ministers To Cooperate

LD2504130095 Bishkek Kyrgyz Television First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1530 GMT 24 Apr 95

[Video report by Kazakbay Musabekov]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting today of the interior ministers of the three neighboring countries of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan considered the mechanism for deepening operational measures for more joint activity against criminals, and decided to adopt them. Strengthening relations with other Commonwealth of Independent States republics in the fight against organized crime and corruption was widely discussed. Despite law and legislation, the fact that crime is growing out of control was the main issue on the agenda of today's meeting. The ministers signed a package of inter-republican agreements on mutual cooperation.

[Begin recording] [Kyrgyz Interior Minister Madalbek Moldashev] All resources and actions of the three countries should be united to raise the fight to a new level. This is why we want to show initiative in meeting one another and establishing close relations in the future. We discussed many things. Our fight against crime has many directions and as many difficulties. This is why the direction, potential, and action we will undertake together was the main outcome today. We ourselves also signed an agreement with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of neighboring Uzbek. This agreement will strengthen the fight, give it a basis.

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In an interview with the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper, Deputy Finance Minister Andrey Astakhov said that 27.7 percent of federal revenues are appropriated for national defence in 1995. Astakhov noted that these expenditures "were fully decoded" for the first time.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper examines the state of Russian- Ukrainian relations. It stresses that President Leonid Kuchma made an unusually sharp statement on the Russian-Ukrainian talks for the first time since he was elected head of state.

In the newspaper's opinion, Kiev "has found allies in the dialogue with Moscow for whom he was looking for a long time—the United States and the EU countries. It is those countries that are interested most of all in the existence of Ukraine and not in the zone of Moscow interests," the newspaper notes.

IZVESTIYA prints an article describing the operation of the federal agency of government communications and information. The daily claims that this agency has "super secret communications system which elipses [as received] the famous American National Security Agency in many respects".

TRUD carries an interview with Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev. According to the president, the Chechen events showed that "neither the State Duma nor the Federation Council (eds: lower and upper chambers of the Russian parliament) can influence many processes, even if the matter in question is war and peace".

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G-7 Finance Ministers Meet in Washington

Chubays Cited on Talks With Gore

MM2504151595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Melor Sturua: "Chubays Brings Optimism to United States and Hopes To Come Back With Trust in Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-powered Russian Government delegation headed by First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays has come to Washington for the session of IMF and World Bank committees. A. Chubays went straight from the airfield to a meeting with Vice President Albert Gore. A half-hour protocol meeting turned into a lengthy substantive conversation. A. Chubays shared with IZVESTIYA his impressions of the conversation.

A. Chubays noted that Vice President Gore "has now become a professional Russia expert with his finger on the pulse of its political and economic life." Almost Gore's first words were congratulations on the decisions by the IMF and the World Bank to grant loans to Russia. These are not merely a vote of confidence in the new Russian budget, they are something more—evidence that the West recognizes the economic reforms in Russia, Gore said.

His interlocutor and mine naturally agrees with that assessment. Russia's participation on an "almost equal" basis in the proceedings of the IMF and World Bank committees is cogent evidence that Moscow is successfully joining the world community of free market countries, A. Chubays believes. In confirmation of this he cited a whole series of remarks in the Western press, including London's THE ECONOMIST, to the effect that by as early as the start of the next millennium Russia will be back in the category of great economic powers.

I voiced some doubt about Russia's successful inclusion in the financial and economic meridians and parallels of the Western world, citing the fact that, while the dollar is falling in the West, it is continuing to rise in Russia. While acknowledging to some extent the "anomalous situation" regarding the dollar in Russia, A. Chubays nevertheless disagreed with my example. The dollar's fluctuations have both positive and negative effects on Russia. Negative, because the fall in the dollar hits the Central Bank of Russia's dollar reserves. Positive, because this reduces our dollar debt.

The discussion turned to an eternal topic: Which is the lesser evil—inflation or unemployment. A. Chubays regards the April inflation level—7 percent—as unacceptable. In June, according to his forecasts, inflation will drop to 2 percent or less. At the same time the vice premier said that the government is clearly aware of the dangers of mass unemployment.

The discussion switched from the economic to the political sphere. A. Chubays says that Gore, citing "Russia's former ambassador in Washington" (a reference to Vladimir Lukin), asked him whether it is true that the Chernomyrdin government is aiming to thwart the elections and postpone them. Chubays told Gore that this is absolutely untrue and that, on the contrary, the Russian Government advocates holding the elections at the legally prescribed time and even intends shortly to make an appropriate demarche (he did not say what).

I asked Chubays whether he can imagine a situation in which several major U.S. banks and corporations would officially get together in an organized fashion and announce that they were backing a specific candidate and would make every effort, financially speaking, to support him. In U.S. conditions this kind of would-be helpful action would be tantamount to the kiss of death. But we are currently seeing something of the sort in Russia.

A. Chubays replied that Russian legislation contains a specific regulatory framework in this regard. Chubays believes that the problem is not that Russia's leading commercial banks and corporations are supporting a specific candidate but that they support practically all the candidates—from Zhirinovskiyites to members of "Russia's Choice"....

Chubays Describes Meeting

LD2604084695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0653 GMT 26 Apr 95

[By Andrey Loshchilin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 26—The ministers of finance and the governors of central banks of the Group of Seven industrialised nations met in Washington on Tuesday within the framework of the spring session of the governing bodies of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

This time the finance officials of the United States, Japan, Federal Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada were joined by a delegation from Russia comprising First Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation Anatoliy Chubays, Minister of the Economy Yevgeniy Yasin, Minister of Finance Vladimir Panskov and acting Central Bank Governor Tatyana Paramonova.

"We spoke about the current economic situation in Russia and about prospects for lowering the rate of inflation and for financial stabilisation," Anatoliy Chubays said in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

"Our report was followed by a discussion. Participants wondered how the Chechnya situation affects the federal budget and how the country's finances will be affected by the forthcoming electoral campaign and the recent rise in the minimal wage.

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"It can be stated with satisfaction that the meeting marked yet another step along the path of turning the big seven into the big eight.

"We took part in discussing practical problems facing the world's leading industrialised countries at present. Our delegation members voiced their opinions about such global financial problems as the Mexican currency crisis and the instability of the American dollar. These problems are of concern for us, and we consider necessary Russia's participation in discussions of this sort", Chubays said.

The situation with the dollar was in the focus of discussion which lasted more than five hours. The heads of the financial departments said in a communique adopted as a result of the discussion that they promise to cooperate in efforts aiming to stabilise the world currency markets.

Nonetheless, the communique says nothing about plans for any coordinated action aimed at boosting the dollar exchange rate in the nearest future, even though before the meeting Japanese and German officials advised their American colleagues to raise the bank discount interest rate. U.S. Finance Secretary Robert Rubin, however, replied that the Washington administration found the move inadvisable.

Economic Minister: G-7 Has Evolved Into G-8

LD2504165095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 25 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by our diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 25 (INTERFAX)—In matters of politics, the G7 has evolved into G8, although the G7 countries are rather resentful of the prospect for its turning into an economic alliance of eight countries, Russia's Economics Minister Yevgeny Yasin told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview in Washington.

He did not say how much time it will take to transform the G7 into G8. "This depends above all on the rate of economic changes in Russia and on our own plans to accelerate this process," said Yasin.

He said that "politically, we are interested in this, but there are economic factors restraining both Russia and the G7."

Kozyrev Addresses Businessmen at UN Mission

LD2504165795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1643 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Aleksey Berezhkov and Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York City, April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—"Huge natural and labor resources of Russia may make it the world economic Klondike of the 21st century," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told Russian and U.S. businessmen today at the Russian Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

"We are working to make the Russian market open and attractive to foreign partners and investors. The strategic policy of Russian full-scale integration with the world economic system remains unchanged. It is symbolized by gradual turning of the G-7 into the G-8," said the minister.

Dwelling on problems and difficulties that hamper more close cooperation of the U.S. business community with Russia, Kozyrev said that "the economic policy of the Russian Government is gradually removing obstacles on the way of normal mutually beneficial cooperation." He called on American businessmen "to abandon the wait-and-see policy and come to the Russian market to show courage and imagination that are traditionally characteristic of the American business."

Urges U.S. Businesses To Invest

LD2604102495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2218 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksey Berezhkov, Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New York, 26 Apr—"Russia's huge natural and human resources can turn it into a Klondike of the world economy of the 21st century," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said. [passage omitted]

Having dwelt on the problems and difficulties which hamper "more intensive cooperation" between the American business world and Russia, Andrey Kozyrev pointed out that "the Russian Government's economic policy is gradually removing obstacles to normal mutually advantageous cooperation."

"First of all, this is a course towards economic stabilization," the Russian minister remarked. "It has been fully supported and approved by the International Monetry Fund. This course is already bearing fruit. Last year inflation dropped more than by a factor of three compared to the previous year. Industrial decline has considerably slowed down. A consistent positive foreign trade balance has been achieved." Against this background, the minister said, obstacles to foreign investments in the country are being lifted and last year they amounted to $1.2 billion.

At the same time, Andrey Kozyrev noted with regret that there are obstacles to cooperation on the American side, too. "We have long ago stopped mentioning Western aid while raising the question of developing mutually advantageous economic cooperation instead," the minister stressed. "For this we do not need privileges, but rather conditions for normal competition. It has been possible to remove many discriminatory restrictions on Russian-U.S. trade recently. However, some of them still remain

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in force, as an anachronism, for instance, the Jackson-Vanick amendment. The COCOM lists are effectively in force too, although the COCOM itself was abolished long ago."

The Russian minister called on U.S. business community "not to wait, but to enter the Russian market faster and more resolutely showing the daring and imagination for which U.S. business has been traditionally famous."

After his speech Andrey Kozyrev met Strobe Talbott, U.S. deputy secretary of state. According to Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry press and information department, it was a working meeting within the framework of preparing the Russian-U.S. summit. "In my view," he remarked, "both Strobe Talbott and Andrey Kozyrev were pleased with the results of the meeting."

'Abbreviated Account' of Kozyrev NPT Address

MM2604091595 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Apr 95 pp 1-2

["Abbreviated account" of speech by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Extension Conference in New York on 24 April: "Andrey Kozyrev: We Advocate the Irreversible Nature of Nuclear Disarmament. In New York Russian Foreign Minister Addresses International Conference Considering Fate of Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The conference is devoted to a truly vital question for all the peoples of the world, namely the future of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. A quarter of a century ago the states' years-long attempts to embody three epoch- making objectives, each of comparable significance, in a clear, legally-binding form were crowned with success, these objectives being:

—to erect a lasting barrier in the way of nuclear arms proliferation;

—to put an end to the nuclear arms race and securely launch the nuclear disarmament process;

—to organize extensive cooperation in the peaceful use of atomic energy.

Did the balance of mutual commitments adopted by the parties to the treaty accord with these objectives? At the time, 25 years ago the 50 states which ratified the NPT responded in the affirmative. There are now 178 such states.

We must now assume the burden of historical responsibility. I am talking about the choice of a future. Whether this future is stable and predictable or spells fresh nuclear confrontation depends on the decisions that we take.

During the debate at this forum we have heard various assessments as to the effectiveness of various elements of the treaty. That is understandable: It is after all a question of a document that has united the most varied of states through compromise—states large and small, nuclear and nuclear-free. The main point is that the treaty serves the common interests of ensuring stability, averting the nuclear threat, and disarmament. And the reason why the treaty amassed such a number of adherents (a record number for a "disarmament" agreement) is that they need this treaty as a reliable guarantee for safeguarding their national and general interests.

People say that the treaty is "ineffective." Let us look at the facts. Let us compare intentions with present-day reality.

First and foremost, is the treaty curbing nuclear arms proliferation?

Undoubtedly.. The treaty has become a most important barrier to nuclear arms proliferation. There are still five nuclear powers. The treaty's provisions have become inalienable norms of international law and of civilized behavior in the international arena, norms that no one can ignore.

It is worthy of note that one country—the Republic of South Africa—voluntarily dismantled its own nuclear weapons and acceded to the treaty as a nuclear-free state.

It was largely thanks to the existence of the NPT that it proved possible amid the political maelstrom caused by the collapse of a nuclear power, the USSR, to prevent an increase in the number of nuclear countries. Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan acceded to the treaty as nuclear-free states. We welcome the wisdom shown by our CIS friends and partners. This, in turn, has strengthened the treaty and the reliability of the international nonproliferation norm.

Russia is committed to the ultimate objective—namely the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Russia is proposing to move toward that objective with all the nuclear states, mindful, needless to say, of the specific nature of their nuclear potentials and possibly with some asymmetry in their commitments. This could be carried out within the framework of the Treaty on Nuclear Security and Strategic Stability suggested by Russian President B.N. Yeltsin at the United Nations last fall.

We highly appreciate the fact that on the eve of the opening of the Conference on the NPT the United States, Britain, and France joined us and these four nuclear powers issued a statement in Geneva, in which they solemnly confirmed their commitment to hold talks on effective measures in the sphere of nuclear disarmament in a spirit of goodwill.

The most important stages on the road to nuclear disarmament include the permanent banning of nuclear tests. The corresponding multilateral talks have begun in Geneva and are proceeding successfully. A universal

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treaty, of unlimited duration subject to effective international supervision is attainable. Russia is in favor of its being signed this very year. It still hews to its moratorium on nuclear tests, which has been repeatedly extended.

A treaty on a comprehensive prohibition of nuclear tests will strengthen still further the nuclear nonproliferation regime. But one is also bound to see another aspect: The total banning of nuclear tests and thus the renunciation of a qualitative improvement in nuclear weapons is only feasible given the existence of a nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

Banning the production of fissionable materials for nuclear weapons is another pressing issue. Russia is implementing a program to close down the last installations that used to produce weapons- grade plutonium, and the plutonium that is being produced is not used for these purposes. Our country suspended production of weapons-grade plutonium several years ago. We will actively strive to ensure that the special committee of the Conference on Disarmament, which was set up to hold talks on this issue, starts work as soon as possible.

We advocate the ongoing and irreversible nature of the nuclear disarmament process. At the same time we remain realists. The progress made in implementing disarmament programs confirms that it is not possible to dispose of nuclear weapons overnight. Eliminating the inherited nuclear stocks is a costly process. It requires the resolution of major technical and financial tasks.

Russia firmly advocates the indefinite and unconditional extension of the treaty. There is now a historic opportunity for this and it would be unforgivable to miss it. To renounce the extension of the treaty would mean destroying the basis of international stability. In a world where it has only recently proved possible to smash the logic of the nuclear arms race, this would be an inadmissible step back. On the other hand, imparting a permanent, forward-looking nature to the treaty would mean guaranteeing the intensification of all the positive elements of the NPT. I would like to particularly stress that the indefinite extension of the NPT does not represent a mandate for the nuclear powers' indefinite possession of their nuclear weapons, but heralds the prospect of ongoing progress toward a world free of nuclear weapons.

U.S. Ambassador Holds Pre-Summit Conference

MK2604080095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Dmitriy Gornostayev under the "United States-Russia" rubric: "Pickering Is Dropping Hints. The U.S. Ambassador in Moscow Has Identified Interests of His Country in Its Relations With Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In anticipation of the meeting between the Presidents of Russia and the United States, relations between these two countries were the topic of discussion at a practical scientific conference held yesterday at the Diplomatic Academy. The key events there were speeches made by Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to the Russian Federation; and Aleksey Kvasov, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's North America Department.

In general, both diplomats focused their attention on the problem of overlapping Russian and U.S. interests, but whereas Kvasov highlighted issues of cooperation, in Pickering's speech one could detect the wish to identify those areas where U.S. interests are especially prominent. These include the threadbare nuclear deal between Moscow and Tehran and relations between Russia and the CIS countries. In Pickering's opinion, as long as integration processes within the CIS continue to develop "on a sovereign and voluntary basis," the United States will be supporting them. One would hardly agree, however, that it should be up to Washington alone to determine at what moment the sovereign and voluntary integration ceases to be such.

Both Pickering and Kvasov noted a significant role of the internal political situation for relations between the Russian Federation and the United States. There is a great number of negative developments in this regard on both sides—linked, first of all, with legislative bodies of the two countries. Specifically, the U.S. ambassador mentioned the opinions of some congressmen who are against active support of Kremlin by the White House and concluded that the presence of the Republican majority in Congress is a serious challenge for U.S. foreign policy.

One can suppose that, prior to the summit, the U.S. Administration decided to warn the Russian partners that future developments might be not very favorable for them, and that probably it would be better to take Bill Clinton's advice during his visit to Moscow.

Problems at Russo-U.S. Economic Talks Viewed

LD2404190095 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1710 GMT 24 Apr 95

[Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] A Russian Government delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Davydov is having talks in Washington on all aspects of Russian-American economic cooperation. Now a commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov.

Official reports say the two sides will discuss among other things the preparation for a regular meeting of the Chernomyrdin-Gore commission on economic and technological cooperation. The previous meeting took place in Moscow last December when a package of about 20 agreements was signed. [passage omitted]

There are a number of problems in trade and investment, despite the fact that mutual understanding on a

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number of economic issues was reached at the Russian-American summit in Washington last September. The two countries signed a joint declaration after the meeting. However, there has been little progress since then. Russia has failed to adopt a new taxation legislation; taxes change very often and this causes concern of American and other foreign businessmen. There are other problems in Russian legislation and Mr. Davydov spoke openly about them.

The American side has failed to fulfil a number of promises. It has failed to cancel discriminatory laws and rules on trade introduced during the Cold War. It hasn't fulfilled the promise to recognize Russia as a country with a transitional economy. The United States continues to launch procedures on anti-dumping exports, damaging Russian exporters, despite the fact that Russia has set no export or import limits.

Washington is opposed to Russia's reactors being sent to a nuclear power plant in Iran. It also rejects North Korea's request to receive Russian-built reactors to replace old ones. Is this a coincidence or a commercial rivalry?

Russia and the United States have good prospects for cooperation in oil industry, space research, nuclear power engineering and other spheres. If the two sides used their economic potential the present dispute over the supplies of Russian reactors to foreign countries could be settled. Already now the United States is the leader among foreign investors in Russia.

Expert: U.S. ABM Testing Endangers Geneva Talks

LD2304180895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1751 GMT 23 Apr 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 23 (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian-U.S. talks on the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) now underway in Geneva have produced a lot of doubt as to whether such consultations are worthwhile, according to a Russian expert.

Anton Surikov, an expert with the Military, Strategic and Technological Research Centre of the Institute of the United States and Canada, told ITAR-TASS on Sunday that a test launch made at the White Sands range, New Mexico, last week within the framework of a "tactical" anti-ballistic missile system development programme makes the discussion of the main provisions of the 1972 ABM Treaty pointless.

The testing of a new ABM system shows the U.S. intention to make Russia face the fact of the development of new arms in circumvention of international agreements, he said.

According to the U.S. Department of Defence, the new system is capable of intercepting and destroying ballistic missiles with a range of 50 to 1,800 miles and may be deployed by the year 2000.

Commenting on the U.S. plans to build a "tactical ABM system" and change the ABM Treaty, Surikov pointed out that "these plans are in fact yet another attempt to push through the back door the old Reagan SDI [Strategic Defense Initiative] idea. That's why they pose a considerable threat to strategic stability in the world and provoke China and other 'minor nuclear countries' to sharply build up their nuclear missile forces."

He believes that Russia should not agree to any changes in the ABM Treaty if they contradict its provisions which prohibit modernising tactical ABM systems in such a way that would make it possible to use them for strategic anti-missile defence.

"The parliament should state that any changes and amendments to the 1972 ABM Treaty ratified by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR should be submitted for ratification by the Federal Assembly. Otherwise Russia's national security may be seriously damaged," Surikov said.

Joint Peacekeeping Exercises Planned With U.S.

LD2504211095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1510 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Apr—"In an age of increased regional tensions resulting in new sources of military danger the role of efficient peacekeeping operations is gaining in importance to a considerable degree. The holding of international military exercises to improve the coordination of forces and means of member countries therefore acquires special urgency," Nikita Matkovskiy, Russian Foreign Ministry official spokesman, said, commenting on a visit by a Russian Armed Forces delegation to the Fort Riley base in Kansas, which is starting today.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that during their three-day visit the Russian military delegation, led by Lieutenant General Aleksandr Sokolov, deputy commander in chief of the ground forces, will discuss with their American colleagues the problems of holding joint tactical exercises of the two countries' peacekeeping forces.

Commentator Views Oklahoma City Truck Bombing

NC2604064195 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Persian 1500 GMT 23 Apr 95

[Commentary by Yevgeniy Krishkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Events in Oklahoma City last week were another reminder of the threat of terrorism. Our commentator Yevgeniy Krishkin writes:

This terrorist attempt was the biggest terrorist act ever to hit American soil. Dozens were killed when a car loaded

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with explosives blew up in front of a federal building. The casualty toll was over 400, with around 100 still unaccounted for.

Oklahoma City is one of the [words indistinct] cities that have been a victim of terrorist acts. An explosion in 1983 in front of the American Embassy in Beirut killed 63 people. In a terrorist act last year against the Jewish center in Buenos Aires, 96 people were killed. Then there were Bogota and Medellin in Colombia, Palermo and Florence in Italy, Barcelona and Madrid in Spain, Algiers, [name indistinct] in Israel, and many other cities that can be named, cities in which explosions killed many people.

Terrorism is an international phenomenon faced by many countries in one form or another. For example, terrorism in Japan has taken the form of gas attacks in the subway in Tokyo and in Yokohama port. In Tajikistan, a former Soviet republic, criminal groups attack border guard posts from Afghan territory. In Algeria, the Islamists fight against the government. In Germany, extremists attack foreigners. Spanish separatists have also used terrorist methods, like a series of other countries.

Irrespective of its form, terrorism is used everywhere as a means to an end. These ends may be personal, group, political, or economic in nature. Irrespective of the processes that believe that terrorism is a means of self-defense, terrorism is a crime everywhere, because it results in nothing but pain and the death of innocent people.

Many countries are expressing their condolences to the United States on the Oklahoma City explosion. But the time has come for obstacles to be placed in front of terrorism. This can be achieved with the help of the entire world and [words indistinct]. This is where the memory of the victims of terrorism leads us.

Reasons for Deportation of U.S. Newsman Explored

MK2604073095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Volkov in the "Scandal" column: "A U.S. Journalist Has Been Declared Persona Non Grata in Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Stephen Levin, a correspondent for three influential English-language publications—THE FINANCIAL TIMES, THE WASHINGTON POST, and NEWSWEEK—was Wednesday [as published, 26 April] declared a person "undesirable for Russia." Meanwhile Igor Bulay, chief of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press and Information Department Administration for Liaison with Foreign Correspondents, said the Russian Foreign Ministry has "no complaints" to make against him.

Steve Levin, who covers events on the territory of Central Asia and the Transcaucasus for the above publications, was detained by the Vnukovo Airport passport control service when he arrived in Moscow from Tbilisi. Levin was going to board a flight going from Sheremetyevo-1 to Almaty; in other words, he did not intend to stay in Russia. Even so, a border guard officer told Levin that as of now he is persona non grata. Levin spent the night in Vnukovo, after which he was put on a plane bound for Tbilisi, free of charge.

Steve Levin told SEGODNYA that in the past he had problems with the Russian passport control service, which had detained him four times when flying to London. He made a supposition that such attention to his personality is due to his publications about Russian operations in Chechnya.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, however, maintains that the reason for the scandal over Levin is that last year he was deported from Uzbekistan, whose authorities told the journalist that they consider his activity (i.e., reporting) to be aimed against Islam Karimov's regime. In November 1992 CIS members signed an agreement on mutual visa recognition, Point 3 of which says that the sides undertake "not to issue visas to foreign citizens who have been prohibited from entering one of the CIS member countries in accordance with procedures established by national laws." This, according to Bulay, served as grounds for denying Levin entry to Russia, even for the purpose of transferring to another flight.

Both versions of the incident are easily interrelated. Of the numerous decisions made at CIS heads of state summits only a few are being implemented. Russian bureaucracy has given close attention to a correspondent who has fallen out with the Uzbek president possibly because it itself is not happy with his stories. If this is not so, then in the future Yeltsin will apparently have to adjust Russia's foreign political course to the wishes of Central Asian bashis [chiefs] and khans. And if this is so, then the Kremlin and its ministers are themselves demonstrating a thinly veiled aspiration to conduct themselves like khans and bashis.

Paper Cites Christopher Remarks on NATO Growth

MM2604134195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 95 First Edition p 7

[Report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, ITAR-TASS column: "They Are Reluctant To Listen to Us"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Any decision regarding the expansion of NATO will be made "with great attention, circumspection, and caution," but the U.S. approach has "not undergone any change either with regard to accelerating or slowing down" this process.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said this prior to his talks with Polish Foreign Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski.

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The head of the U.S. diplomatic service pointed out that Russia's protests have had absolutely no effect on the U.S. approach to the expansion of NATO, which is "continuing in precise accordance with the decisions adopted last December at the NATO Council session."

Lukin Concerned Over U.S. Ties, NATO Expansion

LD2504135995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1303 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Pavel Vanichkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) Committee on International Affairs and former Russian ambassador to the United States, is concerned over the present state of Russian-American relations.

"I do not like the atmosphere now reigning both in Washington and Moscow," Lukin said in an interview with ITAR-TASS here on Tuesday. "Instead of talking seriously with each other, we start to engage in rhetoric of purely domestic nature."

Lukin noted that "the ballyhoo in the West in general and in America in particular that Russia cannot have the right to veto NATO expansion, results in some nervousness in Moscow". From the legal point of view, Russia, "indeed, has no right to veto the admission of new members to NATO, since it is not a member of the bloc.

"However, it is ridiculous to speak about this process without taking into account the foreign policy context. If we are to speak about European security from the Atlantic to the Urals, only people who understand nothing, can build such a security system without taking into account Russian interests or people who believe that such a system will be maintained without Russia or even will be spearheaded against Russia," the legislator noted.

He expressed hope that "a serious American-Russian dialogue will take place, after all, at the coming may summit of the two presidents".

"To speak seriously means to combine politeness and gentleness of intonations with firmness in positions. When talks are conducted by reasonable people, they will surely find a compromise.

"If Americans cannot conduct a reasonable dialogue before their presidential elections, let us make a pause and then, let us return to a serious talk after the elections. The main thing now is not to aggravate the situation," Lukin stressed.

Naval Commander Comments on NATO Expansion

LD2404143595 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The strategic military parity in the eastern Baltics may alter as the frontiers of NATO possibly draw right up to Russian shores here. Kaliningrad Region, which is cut off from Russia, will be surrounded by NATO countries, too. A special defense district of Russia was created in the Kaliningrad enclave where, under the guidance of Naval Commander Feliks Gromov major command and staff exercises were held for the first time jointly by the forces of the Baltic Fleet, the 11th independent Guards' Army and the Air Defense forces.

[Begin recording] [Gromov] What I can say so far is this: the readiness of all the forces of the Navy, the Army, and the district Air Defense is up to the demands placed on it.

[Unidentified correspondent] That's so far—but what if the countries of the Baltics, Poland join NATO?

[Gromov] If these decisions are taken, we will of course analyze these decisions and look at what they will lead to. It's one thing just to join without any troops being stationed. It's another thing for NATO troops to be stationed. There are different versions which will of course need to be analyzed and then the appropriate decisions will have to be taken to guarantee the reliable defense of our frontiers. [end recording]

Shumeyko Reiterates Opposition to NATO Expansion

LD2404081595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0736 GMT 24 Apr 95

[By Andrey Palaria]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara April 24 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation Council speaker Vladimir Shumeyko reiterated Monday [24 April] the Moscow position that security in Europe should be promoted through the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), rather than by NATO expansion to the east.

"The OSCE should deal with issues of European security", he told TASS in Turkey where he met the country's leadership.

Shumeyko called to "enhance the peace-keeping efficiency of the OSCE which unites both NATO members and former Soviet republics".

The speaker recalled that NATO was created in the times of stand- off between the Soviet and Western blocs in Europe. But NATO continues to exist also in the new situation when the former Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact had already collapsed.

Shumeyko hopes that Europe will never again be divided into military blocs. However, he admitted that economic competition will remain on the continent and countries rich in resources and high technologies will be in the lead.

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Churkin on Russia's Relations With NATO

MK2504134095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 9

[Interview with Vitaliy Churkin, Russian ambassador to Brussels and former deputy foreign minister, by Dmitriy Pogorzhelskiy: "Vitaliy Churkin: Russia Has Never Had Any Conflicts with NATO"—place and date not given; first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Before his appointment to Brussels as Russia's ambassador, many knew Vitaliy Churkin rather not as a deputy foreign minister but as the Russian president's representative at the negotiations on ex-Yugoslavia. Western newspapers were full of complimentary commentaries about "the young Russian pro" who expeditiously moves around the world and—even according to Western diplomats—"performs his functions brilliantly, maintaining the interests of his country." [passage omitted]

[Pogorzhelskiy] Let us talk about NATO. First of all, about the Partnership for Peace program. Why does Russia need it?

[Churkin] Our cooperation should be built on a broader foundation than Partnership for Peace, going beyond the narrow framework of individual partnership programs. We need it, first, because NATO is an important international factor. And it is better to have a good relationship with it. The closer we collaborate, the more possibilities we shall have for safeguarding ourselves against any "surprises," and also for exerting an impact on its policy formulation.

Second, we have a coincidence of interests: Take, for instance, the nonproliferation of mass destruction weapons.

Third, we are apparently entering a lengthy and difficult period of military reform, and it would be more expedient not to reinvent the wheel, but to look at how, say, the NATO military structure is working. Naturally, our Armed Forces have wonderful traditions and methods, which NATO members do not have, and they readily recognize this, and visit our games with interest.

[Pogorzhelskiy] Even so, last December in Brussels Andrey Kozyrev at the last moment refused to sign the Partnership for Peace program. Speaking in an interview, he said that he did not do it because together with you he had found in the text of the NATO communique, adopted that day, something that forced him not to put his signature under it. What was it?

[Churkin] [passage omitted] The paradox is that although Russia has never had any conflicts with NATO—in contrast to the United States or Germany—we saw the North Atlantic Alliance as "aggressive," and "imperialist." Therefore, naturally, some time is needed to get accustomed to the new situation, when neither we nor they would regard each other as enemies. We acted on the assumption that this period—the period of partnership—will be long enough.

But suddenly, by the end of the year Washington—mostly for internal political considerations, and also because the East Europeans continued persistently to knock on NATO doors—was swept by the view that the process had to be shifted into higher gear. A basic decision on expansion was made back in early 1994. When the December NATO meeting was drawing near, they began to talk about the need to work out "expansion modalities." The specific time span for the preparation of a corresponding report appeared literally on the eve of the meeting itself. In other words, essentially, the declaration about the readiness to "expand" began to be translated onto a practical plane.

We knew about this, and frankly told the Americans and people in NATO that this should not be done. It finally became known that they had included specific dates in the communique after all only when Kozyrev arrived in Brussels. Late in the evening I was phoned by a NATO deputy general secretary and, although the NATO Council session was still in progress, with the Council's permission, he rapidly read—as though pronouncing a tongue-twister—some passages from that extensive communique. I immediately—late at night—informed Moscow.

Kozyrev got in touch with the president right from my apartment. A decision was made not to give the program the "go-ahead" at that moment.

[Pogorzhelskiy] And what did we gain by that?

[Churkin] From that day, 1 December, we have gained two things. First, NATO has recognized Russia's special status. The Partnership concept provides that all partners are equal, so as not to offend anybody. Russia's special status was originally recorded in the famous 22 June 1994 Memorandum, when we acceded to Partnership, and also in the document which we prepared by 1 December: "Spheres of Broad and Deepened Dialogue and Cooperation Between Russia and NATO." This is a second and perhaps the main component of the program for our relations with the bloc because it is of a more political character. It provides for relations in three spheres: the exchange of information on problems of European policy and security; consultations on matters of mutual interest; and cooperation on the entire complex of security issues, including in the sphere of peacekeeping. [passage omitted]

Now NATO is ready to consider any possible options for relations with us. The idea of creating a standing consultative body was aired; there is talk to the effect that Russia's membership in NATO is not ruled out. In any event, openness can be used in order to find new forms of interaction which would suit us, without imposing onerous and unacceptable obligations. At the same time this would provide a full guarantee that no processes are

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occurring within NATO which could have a negative impact on Russia's security. [passage omitted]

[Pogorzhelskiy] This sounds fairly upbeat. Our relations today, however, without warming up too much, are again being complicated over the problem of the alliance's expansion to the East. Defense Minister Pavel Grachev threatens sanctions; General Aleksandr Lebed warns that the expansion may be provoke nothing short of a third world war. Others do not see anything terrible about the expansion.

[Churkin] Well, we are accustomed to extremes. First of all, it needs to be understood that the idea of expansion itself is not anti-Russian, although it does confront Russia with certain problems, which call for a solution. Its rationale is not primarily linked to Russia. It would be anti-Russian, if everything was started in order to create problems for Russia, or if it was, moreover, linked with any aggressive plans against us. In practice, however, both NATO members and the East Europeans—at least the most sensible politicians among them—assure that under any circumstances they seek to take Russia's concerns into account. And one cannot fail to use this. [passage omitted]

The defense minister's statement is a serious thing. It raises the question of conventional weapons in Europe—which is one of the most critical ones at present. What will happen to the CFE Treaty if the expansion goes ahead? So far NATO has not given us an answer to this question, nor to our queries about flank limitations. Herein lies the weakness of NATO's position. [passage omitted]

[Pogorzhelskiy] But there are different points of view in NATO countries. Some are in a hurry while others do not seem to be eager to expand.

[Churkin] It needs to be borne in mind that the key factor here is the position of Washington. Because NATO is, in essence, nothing but U.S. guarantees of Europe's security. Our NATO colleagues, those who have no particular itch to expand, tell us: "Please understand, the United States is ready, the East European countries are anxious to join us, and there are no weighty reasons either to turn them down or to state officially that we want no expansion." They do not want to spoil their relations either with Eastern Europe or with the United States.

U.S. political thinking, in my opinion, is characterized by a contradiction. One of the basic points in Clinton's election foreign policy concept was to focus the entire attention on domestic policy. And suddenly the subject of expanding foreign political obligations arises. Well, things are not always logical in politics. There is probably a fairly easy explanation: Voters who come from Eastern Europe, influential lobbies, are exerting strong pressure on the political establishment. As a result, Congress goes even farther than the administration, which on the whole acts cautiously. [passage omitted]

[Pogorzhelskiy] Is our proposal to place the alliance under the control of the porous structure of the OSCE logical?

[Churkin] We have never come out with any such proposal!

[Pogorzhelskiy] Was it dreamed up then?

[Churkin] No, it was not. Our documents prepared long before the Budapest summit contained the phrase: "the key role of the OSCE." NATO members pretended that they were dismayed. Then we simply borrowed their wording: "central role." Apparently there is an element of a political game here, the wish to stress once again that they do not want to follow anybody's orders.

In effect, there are no fundamental problems between NATO and the OSCE.

[Pogorzhelskiy] How can Russia's role in a future European security system be envisioned?

[Churkin] From my point of view, Russia's role can comprise two elements: membership in some European organizations, or a real, full-fledged partnership with others—the OSCE, NATO, the EC, the Western European Union. We still need to see whether we should join all European structures. Russia is a Eurasian power with its specific interests. With respect to some, we can become full-fledged members, while with respect to others—at this point in history—limit ourselves to serious cooperation, while preserving, apart from other things, our allied links within the CIS framework. With regard to NATO I would not brush aside the prospect of membership, even though in some innovative form.

Whichever responsible NATO politicians I have talked with, everybody admits: It is impossible to do without Russia's active participation in a future security system. [passage omitted]

[Pogorzhelskiy] Has the war in Chechnya seriously complicated your professional life?

[Churkin] Not particularly, although the psychological background has certainly changed—not for the better. From the very start, NATO members took up a very careful position, without formulating any official point of view. There have been several statements by the secretary general in which he spoke about concern, but not much more than that. They apparently decided: We have a complicated relationship as it is, and there are other forms and channels for articulating particular considerations.

[Pogorzhelskiy] To what extent are you free in making decisions?

[Churkin] I am free in making decisions with respect to the activity of our embassy. (Laughs) We file information to Moscow, naturally, making our proposals and assessments, and wait for instructions from the capital

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on how to act. There can be no free-wheeling here: This is state politics. [passage omitted]

'Inadequate' Russian Reaction to NATO Expansion

95UM0394A Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by Pavel Podlesniy of the YuKOS Institute, under the rubric: "Polemics": "Moscow Has Capabilities To Minimize the Damage: Once Again on Russia's Reaction to the Expansion of NATO"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Active discussion of the issue of the anticipated expansion of NATO, its consequences for Russia's security interests in Europe and the prospects for the development of the military-political situation on the continent as a whole is not subsiding in Russia's political and scientific circles. This state of affairs is entirely explicable since this is a question of whether or not today the centuries-old geopolitical confrontation between the West and Russia will revive or if they will manage to prevent it, having found an appropriate place for Russia in the contemporary European security architecture. An analysis of the probability and scenarios of NATO's expansion and the political and other threats for Russia that are associated with this and its possible responses is become essentially central in the elaboration of Russian security strategy. In the process, during the course of the discussion it appears that inadequate attention is being devoted to an examination of a number of very important aspects that affect NATO's movement to the East.

First of all, there is no mechanism whatsoever in the adoption of specific decisions on NATO's expansion, even after some or other country, first of all from the Vyshegrad four, could be proposed to enter the North Atlantic Alliance. Discussion of a series of issues associated with the advisability of NATO's expansion, its methods and the time frames for the selection of specific candidates is only beginning and it is impossible to exclude the fact that, to the extent of the realization of the entire sum total of the pluses and minuses of this process in the West, the number of those politicians, and especially military personnel, who even today are still skeptical with regard to the need to augment the alliance with new members could increase. A characteristic feature: at the meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the countries that participate in the European Union that took place on 18-19 March 1995 in the French city of Carcassonne, the Italian Minister Suzanna Anelli, having expressed in principle support of the "institutionalization" of NATO's relations with Russia, nevertheless stressed that a fundamental decision on the expansion of the alliance is premature. It is impossible to exclude the fact that Russia's growing resistance to NATO's possible expansion will also promote a deeper realization by Western strategists of the damage of this process for NATO itself, the prospects for its survival, and relations between the states that make up this alliance.

In the situation that is taking shape, either Russia's silent consent to NATO's expansion or its intention to exchange this consent for some or other "compensation" by the West would not only be premature but would not provide any strategic advantages whatsoever for Russia. The conversation itself on such compensation would only cover Moscow's forced consent to the expansion and become a diplomatic act to save face and no more. All the more so that certain demands on compensation which are being expressed by Russian experts are either knowingly unfulfilled or are, on the contrary, unjustifiably frivolous. Specifically, this pertains to the demand on not deploying nuclear weapons in the Central European countries. It is difficult to find a sensible politician or military person in the West who would want such a development of events, all the more so today when so much effort is being exerted to strengthen the nuclear weapons nonproliferation regime, including insuring the nonnuclear status of certain post-Soviet states. Moreover, it is unrealistic to demand in a counterproductive manner obligations from the West to not expand NATO into the Baltic states. This most likely could only spur the integration of these states into the structure of the North Atlantic Alliance and ultimately result in the appearance of a new line of tension in Russia-NATO relations.

One other form of compensation for the expansion is quite vulnerable—the "promise" or guarantee that is reinforced by a treaty that NATO is being transformed, that is, that the TsVE [Central East European] countries will enter an already "new NATO". But, first of all, the experience of past years has shown the quite limited possibilities for the transformation of NATO from a military into a political organization if it does not cease to exist in and of itself. It is impossible to ignore the admission of Western statesmen themselves that the main task consists of increasing NATO's influence and adapting it to the new historical realities in Europe, without eroding the main functions of the alliance. Actually, the idea of expansion has a single possible direction for the future transformation of NATO. Yes, it is true that NATO has played a stabilizing role in the relations between its members. But then again, no one is preventing it from accomplishing that task from now on even in its present state. Second, the European Union has had and continues to have an adequately perceptible stabilizing impact on the situation in Western Europe. With regard to the conflicts of the new generation in Europe, their settlement and prevention, be it in the Balkans or in the Transcaucasus, the role of the NATO structures has been more than modest at least until now.

A few words about the possibility of building "special" forms of cooperation between Russia and NATO, specifically by concluding a special treaty on strategic cooperation. However, with a more painstaking review, this type of idea causes quite a few objections or, as a minimum, reflections. The NATO countries themselves have still not defined either the nature of the "special" form of relations or the scale of possible cooperation. But

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the main thing, the institutionalization of cooperation with Russia, is thought to be "parallel" to the process of NATO's expansion. But it is impossible to be a little bit pregnant or a little bit not pregnant in politics and diplomacy. Genuine cooperation of Russia and NATO is improbable under conditions of an expansion since practically all Russian analysts agree that expansion at best will not improve Russia's position and security and, at worst, will take the form of its political isolation and weakening of positions on the European continent and will reduce the Western countries' interest in maintaining a full-scale dialogue with Russia on many key issues of European security and stability.

It seems that in the situation that is taking shape Russia must avoid any extreme, that is, give a hasty "approval" to NATO's expansion or, on the contrary, set out on a path of new confrontation with the West that is quite impetuous and contradictory to the interests of its security and internal development. If the NATO states actually arrive at the conclusion to accept some one or several states into its ranks, Russia will find itself incapable of blocking that probable development of events. But this does not at all signify that it does not have any possibilities whatsoever to select a course to "minimize the damage" to its security in the event that a decision on the expansion of NATO becomes irreversible in nature. An understanding that there is no sense making "NATO-mania" the basis of its policy in Europe could be a starting point of that policy. For Russia right now the main thing is to concentrate on the defense of its long-term interests on the European continent, regardless of whether or not NATO expands. This concerns first of all the normalization of relations with the key countries of the CIS (Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan) and also the creation of the points of Russia's military, economic or other presence in the other states of the Commonwealth, first of all in the Transcaucasus. It is impossible not to see that the expansion of NATO causes anxiety among both many Ukrainian politicians and military personnel and that it is advisable to utilize it to offer joint or parallel opposition to the hasty expansion of the North Atlantic Alliance. Quite a bit can be done to restore economic, political and other ties with the countries of Eastern Europe and for the elimination of mutual concerns. And, finally, there is adequate room for argument about the fact that the expansion of NATO is hardly the only variant for the resolution of many European security issues. There are other somewhat more optimal variants, for example, expansion of the ES [European Union] and the ZES [Western European Union] which would not engender new schisms and would not lead to the acquisition of unilateral geopolitical advantages.

Yeltsin Vows To Work for Good Relations With Ukraine

LD2604131595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1255 GMT 26 Apr 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 26 (Itar-Tass)—"We know how to speak a stronger language than that used by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma in his latest statement and I do not really think his words were the limit of tough-speaking, but our relations with Ukraine and our cooperation consist of something else," Russian President Boris Yeltsin said today.

He was responding to a request from journalists for comment on President Leonid Kuchma's recent statement on territorial disputes between the two countries.

The Ukrainian President blamed the current tension in bilateral relations between Russia and Ukraine on Moscow.

"We should be looking for a form of good relations with Ukraine, and we will be working in this direction," the Russian President said.

He added that he had had a telephone conversation with president Kuchma the other day and wanted to meet him in person in Moscow on May 9.

"I think we will coordinate our views on a number of questions there and then," Yeltsin stressed.

Kiev-Moscow Relations, Black Sea Fleet Discussed

MK2604110095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Vitaliy Portnikov under the "Geopolitics" rubric: "Moscow and Kiev Fail To Understand Each Other. Leonid Kuchma's Harsh Statement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine President Leonid Kuchma, for the first time after being elected head of the state, has made an unusually harsh statement regarding the process of Russian-Ukrainian negotiations. Leonid Danilovich—who is normally soft and careful in his expressions with respect to Moscow—has started to speak about his partners in the dialogue as harshly as about Ukrainian parliamentarians, calling Moscow's latest proposals on the division of the Black Sea Fleet as unacceptable for Kiev. The Ukrainian leader has termed the reason for the differences as "the problem of territories," having changed, therefore, Kiev's traditional motivations of the dialogue's "skidding" and Boris Yeltsin's obstinate unwillingness to visit the Ukrainian capital.

Kuchma's statement was voiced against the backdrop of a desperate cry of Yuriy Meshkov—the Simferopol recluse. The first president of the autonomous republic, who has long been removed from power by his own parliament and, in addition, "canceled" now by the Ukrainian Supreme Council, urged Boris Yeltsin "not to permit and to protect." This appeal to the Russian president by Meshkov—who used to be one of the most active players in Kuchma's team until the moment of his political crash—would hardly encourage the Kremlin to revise its negative judgments on Meshkov's personal

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traits and the performance of the majority of Russian politicians (probably with the exception of only Konstantin Zatulin, who has already started the pre-election struggle). Meshkov's appeal, however, is yet more proof that the Crimean issue has not been finally settled, and, against this backdrop, one can ignore the statement in support of Kiev by the Crimean government, which enjoys the real power in this peninsula, and the hectic attempts of some deputies of the Crimean Supreme Council—which appeared to be quite homogeneous only the day before yesterday—to bring it back to the "legal domain of Ukraine." This is indeed a problem of territories, which has smoothly evolved into a problem of property and power ambitions!

It seems, however, that Moscow and Kiev fail to understand each other not only because of an absence of common sense. Quite the contrary, there are professionals sitting at the negotiating table who are well endowed with common sense. Most probably, it has happened due to changing geopolitical reference points. For me, this was well illustrated by the conference "Ukraine and European Security," held recently at the Aspen Institute in Berlin behind closed doors. The quiet and even optimistic atmosphere of the discussion (while talking about the Ukrainian economy!) changed when the question of Russian-Ukrainian relations was raised. The participants in the discussion from Kiev—who had just been talking about reorientation of official Ukraine toward the improvement of its relations with Russia—started to do their best to forestall all possible Russian claims, even those which were not implied in the presentation of the Russian speaker: Yuriy Dubinin, Russian Federation deputy foreign minister. The Russian diplomat, reserved and even careful in polemics, seemed to be simply shocked by the attack not of the Ukrainian representatives but by diplomats of leading Western states, who participated in the discussion. They defended the Ukrainian interests almost with a greater zeal than the guests from President Kuchma's administration and the Ukrainian Supreme Council, who tried to stay within the limits of camouflage generally used in the dialogue between Moscow and Kiev.

There is no camouflage left now, either. It should be admitted: In its dialogue with Moscow, Kiev has found allies it has long been looking for—the United States and European Community countries. It is they that are most interested in Ukraine's existence outside the domain of Moscow's interests. One could not even think of such developments prior to the events in Chechnya, but, after all, it was not President Kuchma who sent troops there! It is very convenient for Kuchma, however, to look simply like a head of state who is bringing the rebellious autonomous republic back "to the legal domain" without shooting, in a way more appropriate to the West. As for Russian diplomats and business managers, as usual, they have to answer for sins committed by politicians. Possibly, the harsh assessments of what is happening, made by officials of President Yeltsin's administration—as if echoing the Duma rhetoric—are meant to better the stance of those who are holding negotiations at the moment when Western credits have been already received, while the Ukrainian debts have not been paid yet? The latest success in obtaining the credit, however, does not mean that this was the last meeting between Kremlin leaders and IMF chief Michel Camdessus. It is hardly worthwhile to sacrifice, for the sake of the election campaign (could this well be the reason for the harshened tone in the dialogue with Kiev, and for a renewed interest in long-neglected Crimea and the scrap metal heap proudly called the Black Sea Fleet?), the economic initiatives of the government. It has been already proven: Moscow achieves success when—from both sides—professionals take part in the negotiating process; then, this success does not embitter Kiev. The populist approach to negotiations adds nothing, but it compels the Ukrainian leaders to make statements that can sound unexpected even to them.

Duma Speaker on Crimea, Relations With Ukraine

LD2504152495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1331 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—A more flexible Ukrainian stand on the Crimea will help settle its relations with the peninsula, believes Russian Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin. A statement to the effect was made after Rybkin's meeting with a Ukrainian parliament delegation headed by Vice-Speaker Oleg Demin.

In the words of Rybkin, "Ukraine should not have such a tough and uncompromising stand when there is a possibility of a compromise and settlement."

He reaffirmed that the Crimean problem is an internal affair of Ukraine which should be settled with due account of the will of the Crimean people and international norms.

Rybkin told the Ukrainian parliament members that Russia and Ukraine "must conclude a fundamental treaty to dwell on political, economic and social aspects of bilateral relations. Peoples in both states are waiting for this to happen and do not want to see politicians quarreling."

The meeting also focused on the Black Sea Fleet problem. Rybkin thinks that the fleet is a strategic combat force, "a shield to ensure Ukrainian and Russian defence ability in the south." It is senseless to lose a fleet which was so difficult to form at a time when other nations increasing their military-naval presence in the region, said Rybkin.

Kazakhstan Completes Transfer of Nuclear Warheads

LD2504155295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1534 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Kazakhstan has completed the transfer of the nuclear warheads of its former Soviet intercontinental ballistic SS-18 missiles to Russia, Viktor Yesin, chief of staff of the Russian strategic missile forces told TASS Tuesday [25 April].

After the collapse of the Soviet Union Kazakhstan inherited 104 SS-18 missiles with multiple warheads which consisted of ten nuclear charges each, according to the colonel general.

"On Monday their transfer to the Russian territory was completed", Yesin said. He added that all operations to dismantle and ship the warheads were carried out by Russian experts.

The nuclear disarmament of Kazakhstan was envisaged by the 1992 Lisbon protocol to the START-1 Treaty, according to which three former Soviet nuclear republics of Ukraine, Belarus and kazakhstan pledged to eliminate offensive strategic armaments on their territories in seven years.

Kozyrev Remarks on Russians in CIS States Noted

MK2604105095 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 26 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Kartashkov: "Moscow Pressures Its Neighbors. Russians Are Expected in Their Historical Motherland"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. national security concept envisions the protection of territory, the people, and way of life. Yesterday's session of the Commission on Citizenship under the president was in fact devoted to the protection of Russians living in CIS countries, and their way of life.

True, all speakers qualified the term "compatriots." Meaning that we do not know exactly what they are, but we feel it by intuition, and we must defend them. Because the federal budget has allocated a mere 250 million rubles for supporting compatriots living abroad, the discussion centered around political matters.

Thus, for example, nearly everybody spoke about the problem of the state language because in virtually all CIS states, ethnic Russians are denied the right to receive an education in their native language. They also spoke about a brain drain...to Russia. The teaching staff of higher educational institutions in countries of the near abroad has been more than 80 percent replaced because Russian-speaking teachers have left for the Russian Federation. With respect to financial assistance, commission members could only advise compatriots to put Russian-speaking communities on a self- sufficient basis. Speakers stressed repeatedly that in the next 20 years the government will not have enough funds to support Russians living abroad.

The subject of the session proved to be unexpected to some of the guests. They thought that the commission would yet again discuss candidacies for granting Russian citizenship. Signs are, however, that the aim of the session was to make the mood of the presidential staff known to all departments. Last week Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated that Russia will defend the interests of its citizens living outside its borders. At the time, many observers saw Kozyrev's statements as a sign of Moscow's upcoming transition to forcible methods. The commission session confirmed these suppositions. Now all departments are obligated to take up a tougher position at negotiations on citizenship matters. Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the very near future intends to ask Ukraine and Kazakhstan to open at least three consulates each in areas of concentrated Russian settlements.

Incidentally, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative told the commission that as of now Israel's nationalities policy quite suits Russia, because both states are currently experiencing a repatriation peak.

Document on Kaliningrad Said Submitted to Congress

WS2004103595 Kaliningrad SVOBODNAYA ZONA in Russian 18 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by A. Khikhlya: "Uncle Sam Runs Wild?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The text of a draft resolution, allegedly submitted to the U.S. House of Representatives on 28 March—published by the Lithuanian press—was delivered to the Oblast Duma. The gist of it, obviously, cannot but stir the curiosity of Kaliningrad Oblast residents. Based on quite a loose interpretation of the history of our region, the draft resolution states that our oblast "poses a threat to the peace and security of the Baltic region and of Europe, particularly, of Lithuania, which feels endangered in its location between Kaliningrad and Belarus—two of the most militarized regions in the world." The draft resolution then states: The House of Representatives, supported by the Senate, considers that:

The Congress's postulates are as follows:

1. The Kaliningrad region must be turned into a demilitarized zone, and the Russian Federation must withdraw its Armed Forces from this region.

2. The Russian Federation must hand over the administration of Kaliningrad (Koenigsberg) region to international authorities.

3. Relevant international and regional agencies must be authorized to study opportunities of restoring the integrity of the region with its environment."

First reports on the existence of this document were published in newspapers of the neighboring state in early April. The Duma leadership immediately consulted with

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the Russian Foreign Ministry. It is necessary, at least, to obtain an official text of the draft resolution and evidence that it was genuinely submitted to the U.S. Congress and that there are plans to discuss it. We have not yet received an answer from Moscow, and this delays the adoption of a relevant decision.

Nevertheless, it is possible to make a preliminary comment now.

The Oblast Duma will say that a discussion of the issue, moreover, the adoption of such a resolution, is a rude interference in Russia's domestic affairs, is a distortion of post-war history, and is a violation of international legal norms. Such moves could seriously destabilize the situation in the Baltic region and in the world. Regarding the situation in the world, the words about the restoration of the "integrity of the region with its environment" attract our attention. It appears that someone has no objection to involving Lithuania and Poland in political games in our oblast.

At the same time, deputies would hope that common sense will prevail in the U.S. and that this demarche will not be supported.

West 'Discrediting' Russian Contingent in Balkans

MK2504120095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Nikolay Plotnikov under the "Situation" rubric: "'Russian Battalion' Is Fulfilling Its Tasks. Nevertheless, the Campaign of Discrediting the Russian Contingent of the UN Forces in Former Yugoslavia Continues"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The well-coordinated campaign of discrediting the Russian contingent, as a part of the UN peacekeeping forces in former Yugoslavia, has been proceeding in some Western countries virtually since the very first days of its advent. What aims does this campaign pursue? Why is such great "attention" drawn precisely to our soldiers and officers? In whose way are they?... [passage omitted]

Judging by information in the Yugoslav newspaper POLITIKA, referring to informed sources in Washington, the dismissal of the Russian general and a new wave of accusations brought against the "Russian battalion" have been initiated with the active participation of Peter Galbraith, U.S. ambassador to Zagreb. The ambassador would hardly have taken part in this political action on his own initiative. As an official, representing U.S. interests in Croatia, he could only fulfill instructions from the State Department.

What are Croatia and its patrons after, making persistent attempts to discredit the Russian contingent and, therefore, Russia?

As has become known, at UN headquarters a resolution on a new mandate for peacekeeping forces in Croatia is being prepared. It must specify their size and national composition. Supported by some circles in the United States and several European countries, Croatian authorities aspire to "squeeze out" UN contingents coming from non-NATO countries—first of all, the Russian battalion—from their administrative borders. Croatian newspapers, specifically GLAS SLAVONJE [as transliterated], do not conceal the fact that the Russian commandos—in case of Zagreb's open aggression against Serbian Krajina—will not flee and will fulfill the tasks set by the world community. If such a thing, God forbid, indeed happens, relations between Russia and the United States and NATO will, certainly, not improve. Therefore, to avoid open confrontation, one should by all means get rid of the Russian battalion and the Russian servicemen at the leading posts in the "East" sector.

If the UN's Russian contingent is withdrawn from Serbian Krajina, NATO will have a real possibility to control the situation entirely, exerting political pressure on the settlement of the conflict between Serbia and Croatia. At present, Croatia—primarily with the FRG's help—has created the largest army in the region. In the ground forces only, there are nearly 100,000 people, over 170 tanks, and 1,500 pieces of ordnance and mortars. By comparison, ground forces number 44,000 in Austria, 52,000 in Bulgaria, and 57,000 in Hungary.

In addition to further escalation of tension, all this leads to the undermining of Russia's positions on the international arena, clearly aimed at its exclusion from the political process of peaceful settlement of the Yugoslav crisis....

Russia's president, however, has not weighed in yet on the latest developments with respect to the Russian contingent in former Yugoslavia.

Ministry on War Crimes Tribunal for Bosnians

LD2504142295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1257 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The request from the international criminal tribunal for the materials on the investigation into Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Serb Army General Ratko Mladic to be submitted to it "gives grounds for hoping that the investigation into the suspicion that these individuals committed crimes falling under the jurisdiction of the international tribunal, will be impartial and objective." Nikita Matkovskiy, spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry press and information department, announced this at a briefing today.

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The Bosnian Serbs, the diplomat pointed out, "are one of the peoples forming the states of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who have from the beginning enjoyed constitutional rights equal to those of the Muslims and Croats. Furthermore, it should be taken into account that all the sides during the conflict have, to a greater or lesser degree, committed violations of international humanitarian law and of the rules of conducting military actions."

"Given this, the Russian Foreign Ministry considers that in the case at issue extreme caution should be exercised, since all actions which might today exacerbate the situation and put any of the warring sides into an impasse are counterproductive," he said.

UN Resolution on Belgrade Sanctions Denounced

LD2504154795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1446 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The resolution of the UN Security Council on suspending part of the sanctions against Belgrade for 75 days "contravenes its earlier resolutions and the policy agreed by the Contact Group, which encourage the sides involved in the Yugoslav conflict to take constructive positions." This statement was made by Nikita Matkovskiy, a representative of the press and information department of the Russian Foreign Ministry today.

Russia, the diplomat reminded, abstained during the vote on the resolution. A number of the measures set out in the resolution, he continued, "represent another attempt to introduce double standards into the work of the UN Security Council. In some case the Security Council turns a blind eye to gross violations of its resolutions: for instance, on embargo on the arms supplies to the republics of the former Yugoslavia. In other cases the Security Council opts for the toughening of its restrictive measures".

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said he hoped that in the future the Security Council would be able to provide for a more responsible political approach in its resolutions, while at the same time being guided not by "contrived motives but by the interests of reaching an all-embracing and a really just settlement in the former Yugoslavia".

Moscow 'Ready' To Ship Reactors to Pyongyang

LD2504143095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1406 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Vladimir Solntsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Russia expressed concern over the disruption of US-North Korean talks about the nuclear programme of Pyongyang and reiterated that it is ready to ship a couple of its own reactors to North Korea.

"Moscow is concerned over the situation which emerged at the talks between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on the issue of delivering light-water reactors to North Korea", Foreign Ministry spokesman Nikita Matkovskiy told TASS Tuesday.

"The Russian side reiterates its readiness to help solve the problem also by offering its possibilities in shipping one or two Russian-made reactors to the DPRK, as well as by providing other considerable participation in reorienting the North Korean nuclear programme", he added.

The US-North Korean talks in Berlin focused on the replacement of the Pyongyang graphite reactor, which is potentially capable of producing weapon-grade plutonium, by light-water reactors which are more secure in the military aspect. The negotiations were disrupted Friday. The United States insists that Pyongyang receives South Korean reactors, while North Korea assesses such a position as "unrealistic". Pyongyang has quite a few times stated that it was ready to get Russian-made reactors.

North Korea hints that it can temporarily restart the closed reactor, but Washington threatens to raise the issue of sanctions against Pyongyang in this case.

"If the situation develops along the scenario of escalation of negative steps and results in the final end in the aggravation of the situation around the North Korean nuclear problem, nobody would profit from that", the Foreign Ministry official spokesman said.

Primorye Governor on DPRK Nuclear Power Plant

LD2504181695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1417 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK, April 25 (INTERFAX)—The introduction of the nuclear power plant in the North Korean city of Yongbyon will help stabilize the energy situation in the south of the Primorye Territory (the Far East), Governor of the Primorye Territory Yevgeniy Nazdratenko told journalists in Vladivostok on Tuesday.

Since the construction of this nuclear power plant was frozen five years ago, the Primorye Territory and Russia as a whole has sustained considerable losses, he said. Now the construction has been resumed and there is hope that the North Korean energy will run to ports in the south of the Primorye Territory, he continued.

He believes that the North Korean nuclear plant should be equipped with Russian-made reactors. He also said that during his recent visit to Pyongyang he discussed this issue on a government level. After the visit a joint memorandum was drafted on the importance of putting

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the nuclear power plant into operation without delay. This memorandum is to be sent to Moscow.

The conflict over the nuclear power plant flared up in 1993 when the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] expressed deep concern about the availability of technical facilities for the production of weapon-grade plutonium in Yongbyon. The U.S. and South Korea are currently holding talks with North Korea on replacing its gas-graphite reactors with light-water ones which can only be used for peaceful purposes.

Official Denies Seized Plutonium From Russia

LD2604091295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0858 GMT 26 Apr 95

[By Veronika Romanenkova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 26 (ITAR-TASS) - Only four countries—Germany, Japan, France and Belgium—produce such plutonium fuel which was seized at the Munich airport last August and which was initially ascribed to Russia.

It is clear now that the fuel was not and could not be produced by Russia, and accusations of it in the past were utterly groundless, Georgiy Kaurov, spokesman of the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS here on Wednesday.

Plutonium samples were examined by the Los Alamos national laboratory in the United States. Russian experts were not involved in this work, and they did not study the samples, Kaurov noted. Nevertheless, he learnt that it was fuel and not weapon-grade plutonium.

The compound is a mixture of plutonium and uranium and is used as fuel by nuclear power plants in Germany, Japan, France and Belgium, Kaurov stressed.

As for the handling of weapon-grade plutonium and uranium in Russia, it is controlled very strictly: there is a multi-level security system, the expert noted. There has not been a single case in Russia of stealing fissionable materials.

"The well-thought-out action" to accuse Russia of inability to control its nuclear projects had purely political ends, the specialist stressed.

Deal With Iran Said Not Affecting U.S. Interests

LD2504162995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1145 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Apr—Concern expressed by official Washington in connection with the Russian-Iranian agreement on the delivery of nuclear reactors to Iran, "cannot and must not be a subject of Russian-American talks," considers Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs.

In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, V. Lukin said that warnings by the American side, to the effect that Iran allegedly does not need nuclear reactors as it is "rolling in oil," "are substituting one thing for another." It is not up to Russia, he said, "to decide whether Iran has oil or not, and what kind of energy source it chooses."

"We should only answer one question: Does the signed agreement with Iran on the delivery of nuclear reactors correspond to international treaties, of which Russia is a signatory? Nobody in the world, including the U.S. President, can claim that we are violating some international agreements," V. Lukin said.

U.S. Motives in Iran Nuclear Deal Questioned

LD2404200295 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1710 GMT 24 Apr 95

[Boris Belitskiy commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Next, we turn to a subject very much in the news just now: the contract under which Russia is to supply nuclear power reactors to Iran. Do these reactors really threaten international security, as is argued by the U.S. Administration? Our science correspondent Boris Belitskiy provides some background information on the subject.

First, a brief look at the legal aspect of the matter. The nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which Iran has signed, states that any country that has joined the International Atomic Energy Agency has the right to build nuclear power plants. This, I repeat, is the right of every country that's a member of that agency, which has a system of safeguards to ensure that the reactors are not used for the production of weapons-grade plutonium. [passage omitted]

Naturally the agency will require full information about the fuel rods supplied to the Iranian reactor and about their subsequent disposal, to make sure that they are not used to make nuclear weapons or sold to anyone else for that purpose.

Now let's take a look at the technical side of the matter. The reactors that are to be supplied to Iran to complete a plant near Bushehr, probably not before the next century, are of the light water type and U.S. officials, too, have acknowledged that such reactors would be of no use to Iran for weapons building. In fact these are reactors of the same type that the Americans are urging North Korea to accept in exchange for its present reactor, which is capable of producing weapons grade plutonium.

As for any possible danger from the spent fuel, such a danger has been completely ruled out. The spent radioactive materials from the Russian VVER-1000 reactor in

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Iran are to be shipped back to Russia for the extraction of whatever uranium and plutonium they contain. This is a job that could not possibly be done in Iran. It can only be accomplished at special plants with very sophisticated technology and highly skilled personnel. In Russia these are the Mayak and Tomsk-7 plants.

The only other countries with such plants are the United States, France, Japan, Britain, and China. In other words, one of these countries would have to become Iran's accomplice to enable to produce weapons grade plutonium. Nor could such a plant be built in Iran secretly. It would be spotted at the very outset of the construction work by Russian and Western intelligence.

If Russia were to cancel its contract with Iran, some other country would probably step in and offer Iran its services, just as happened recently when the U.S. President banned American firms from oil deals with Iran. European firms at once stepped in and it's now they that are to help Iran develop its oil and gas fields.

The widespread feeling among specialists here is that the United States' opposition to the reactor deal is prompted not so much by security considerations as by a desire to keep Russia out of the world high-technology market.

NPT Conference, Iran-Russia Cooperation Viewed

NC2504060195 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Persian 1500 GMT 23 Apr 95

[Commentary by Sergey Viktorov]

[FBIS Translated Text] This week the world's social circles have focused their attention on events in New York, where the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] members are meeting. Signed in 1970, the Treaty was to be the most significant international document for 25 years.

Everyone believes the pact has played an immense role in preventing the proliferation of nuclear arms. Today over 170 countries are facing the prospect of renewing this pact.

None of the New York conference participants opposes this. But in view of the deliberations that have started, they clearly disagree on the period for which the pact should be renewed. The five nuclear countries—Russia, America, Britain, France, and China—as well as many other Western countries want the pact to be renewed for an unlimited period. But some Third World countries believe that if this happens the world will be divided into two categories forever—countries with nuclear weapons and countries without. But there are countries that do not want to sign the pact.

The best example of such a country in the Near and Middle East is Israel. Many people believe Tel Aviv manufactured the nuclear bomb long ago. But there are no absolute facts to prove this. The Israelis explain that their refusal to join the non-nuclear countries is linked with the possible nuclear threat against Israeli security. Once, Iraq was considered a source of such a threat, hence the Israeli air force raid on the Iraqi nuclear furnace.

During the past few months Israel has been speaking more about a nuclear threat from Iran. Generally speaking, there is nothing surprising about Tel Aviv's creating such a commotion about Iran's nuclear program. Everyone knows that Iran and Israel are two uncompromising opponents. It is very easy for Tel Aviv to accuse Tehran of wanting to acquire the nuclear bomb, because Washington—Iran's other opponent—is also very supportive of such accusations. And another favorable pretext—Iran's cooperation with Russia and China in nuclear energy production—also exists. The Israelis do not hide the fact that it was they who handed information on Iran's nuclear program to the Americans and that the Americans then used this information to encourage Moscow not to deliver nuclear reactors for the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant.

The propaganda pressure on Iran and on the sides cooperating with it in the field of nuclear energy is extremely great. But Moscow and Beijing do not believe that by assisting Iran in this field they are violating their international commitments and NPT principles. While the NPT members are meeting in New York, Tehran has apparently decided to again stress that it is not interested in having nuclear arms. For example, during his visit to India, Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said his country has not decided to manufacture nuclear arms. The Iranian leader stated that the acquisition of such weapons by any country could be disastrous for all humanity.

Iraqi Minister on Development of Oil Fields

LD2504142395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1404 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Igor Ivantsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—The Iraqi proposal to give Russia the right to develop two major oil deposits in the Iraqi south may be good grounds for resumed operations of Russian oil companies in that state, sources at the Russian Zarubezhneft foreign economic association told ITAR-TASS.

The Iraqi proposal was made during the Iraqi stay of Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik. The resumed Russian participation in development of Iraqi oil deposits will become possible after the U.N. sanctions are lifted.

Commenting on decision of the Iraqi president to give Russia preference in development of the oil deposits, Iraqi Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad said that Russians are friends of Iraq and bilateral relations are good. The oil deposits are capable to producing up to million

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barrels of oil a day. In the words of the minister, many foreign companies fought for investments in their development.

Russia has a real chance to resume its participation in the Iraqi oil market at the past amount. For three decades Russia closely cooperated with Iraqi oil workers and it is much experienced in this respect. The Iraqi oil branch widely used technological equipment of the former Soviet Union and the Iraqi side is interested in further cooperation in this sphere.

UAE Military Chief of Staff on Official Visit

Talks With Yeltsin on Arms Supplies

LD2504132495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1243 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Serov and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Major-General Shaykh Muhammad Bin Zayid Al Nuhayyan, chief of staff of the United Arab Emirates, discussed bilateral military-technical cooperation in the Kremlin today.

Welcoming the Arab guest, Yeltsin said that he knew the content of the talks which Shaykh Muhammad Bin Zayid Al Nuhayyan had with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. "I highly regard our relations—they are developing very dynamically," Yeltsin stressed.

ITAR-TASS learned from trustworthy sources that the talks focused on concluding mutually advantageous contracts for arms supplies to the UAE from Russia. A major military exhibition was held there recently in which Russia took part.

Those taking part in the meeting were Boris Kuzyk, a presidential adviser on military-technical cooperation with foreign countries, and Andrey Kokoshin, Russia's first deputy defense minister.

Meets With Chernomyrdin 25 Apr

LD2504165295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1427 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on Tuesday discussed plans for the delivery of Russian arms with chief of the general staff of the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan. Prospects for bilateral military cooperation were also discussed at the closed-door meeting.

The final results of the negotiations will be commented upon by the Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev after his concluding meeting with the chief of the general staff of the armed forces of the United Arab Emirates now on a visit here. Andrey Kokoshin, Russian first deputy defence minister, who participated in the talks, told ITAR-TASS. Russian President Boris Yeltsin received Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid on Tuesday.

Sale of Obsolete Weapons Rumored

LD2504203695 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] had meetings today with Russia's top officials. [passage omitted]

No official statements were issued after the meetings. INTERFAX learned however that there was discussion at the talks of possible exports to the UAE of Russian armaments, including modern missile and land-based air defense systems. The presence of representatives of the Rosvooruzheniye state arms trading company at the talks also confirms this. The volumes of the alleged contracts and the sums involved have not been disclosed.

We have learned from the sources in the Russian General Staff who quoted foreign mass media that at the end of 1994 a scandal broke out in the UAE: it transpired at parliamentary hearings that, since Soviet times, Moscow had been selling to Abu Dhabi obsolete arms from the strategic warehouses of the Warsaw Treaty Organization. The defense minister and the leaders of the UAE general staff then had serious problems over this. Maybe Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan also discussed this with the Russian officials.

Jordan's Armed Forces Chief of Staff on Visit

Received by Chief of Staff Kolesnikov

MM2504132695 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate: "Meeting at General Staff"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel General 'A. Mar'i, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Jordanian Armed Forces, has arrived in Moscow on a working visit. He was received by Col. Gen. Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff. During the meeting the sides exchanged opinions on the state of and prospects for cooperation in the military sphere.

During the visit, which will last through 28 April, Col. Gen. 'A. Mar'i will meet with Army General Pavel

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Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, and will visit subunits and units of the Moscow and Leningrad Military Districts.

Meets With Ivanov

LD2504220495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1959 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 25 (INTERFAX)—Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and the chairman of the Jordan Allied Chief of the Staff [title as received], Colonel General 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Mari', discussed widening bilateral cooperation, including military, in Moscow Tuesday.

An official spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, Nikita Matkovskiy, told a briefing in Moscow Tuesday that the two officials had pointed out the positive impact of the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty on the situation in the Middle East.

According to Matkovskiy, the two sides agreed on the need to sooner achieve progress in the Middle East settlement, particularly between Syria and Israel and between Lebanon and Israel.

Matkovskiy said the meeting had also touched on the situation around Iraq "to point out the importance of Baghdad continuing constructive cooperation with the U.N. in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the U.N. Security Council, which would promote sooner easing and eventually lifting the sanctions against Iraq."

Moscow Seeks Additional Security on PRC Border

LD2504134795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1335 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Andrey Kirillov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Foreign Ministry wants additional security on the border with China, a high-placed ministry's official told ITAR-TASS today.

The official said this is russia's response to the April 12 incident in the Maritime territory, where a commander of the "Shkolnaya" border outpost, Captain Sergey Dashuk, was killed as Russian border guards were pursuing three Chinese trespassers.

The Russian Foreign Ministry "drew attention of the Chinese authorities to impermissibility of such incidents in order they take appropriate measures", and the Chinese officials gave respective assurances, the spokesman said.

"We are in touch with the Chinese side. We met an understanding in that additional measures are required to avert similar incidents," the diplomat said. He added that China could not give an absolute guarantee.

The Russians think a major security move now would be a rapid putting in effect of the Russian-Chinese border agreement. In addition, there is the need for more cooperation between the two countries' border and interior services.

"Neither we nor the Chinese side want such incidents and trouble on the border," the diplomat said.

Japan Said Lagging in Nakhodka Investment

LD2504121195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1113 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Vyacheslav Bantin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Japan is lagging considerably behind other foreign investors in Russia's far eastern free economic zone Nakhodka, and Japanese companies will likely be unable to find a niche for themselves on this market soon, according to chairman of the Nakhodka free economic zone administrative committee Sergey Dudnik.

Dudnik, who is leading a Russian delegation to a two-day Russian- Japanese conference on Nakhodka problems in Tokyo, said that last year, the Japanese companies invested more than any other foreign investors in the Nakhodka zone, but this year, they were clearly behind U.S. and South Korean competitors.

"We see with our own eyes how the inflow of foreign capital in the economy of our region is swelling. Foreigners have provided 80 million dollars in direct investments, and another 300 million dollars in loans," Dudnik said.

"We now have a total of 470 joint ventures with foreign capital, and only 42 of these are companies with Japanese capital. As a result, Japan might lose its niche on the Nakhodka market as foreign investors are now actively vying for filling all niches on it," said Dudnik.

He said one example was implementation of the project aiming to modernise the Golden Valley Airport, which until recently was used as a military facility. The U.S. company Lockheed is a partner in the venture, and an agreement has been reached that no other foreign companies will be allowed to participate in the management of the future airport which is likely to become one of the major gateways in the far east.

Dudnik said the conference in Tokyo was designed to help Japanese business people find their way to the Nakhodka free economic zone. For the Russian side, representatives of the local government and a group of business people from Nakhodka are taking part in the conference.

Dudnik pointed out that the forum's key task was to identify the bottlenecks in the organisation of the free economic zone and the specific barriers which hamper the expansion of Japanese investments in the economy of the Nakhodka zone.

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Dudnik advised Japanese companies not to disperse their resources across many regions of Russia but to concentrate on one region and make Russia's far east the bridgehead for their business operations in Russia. He said this approach promised benefits because the economic and political situation in the far east was distinguished by greater stability than in Russia as a whole.

Dudnik stressed that the intensive development of the Nakhodka economic sector and more copious foreign investments in the region were in the interests of Russia as a whole. "We are now building a factory which will create thousands of new jobs for people from Siberia's chemical industry, hundreds of jobs for railwaymen, and many more new jobs for other specialists," Dudnik said.

Ministry Spokesman on Cooperation With OAS

LD2504170595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1635 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Sergey Gorbunov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Russia has been developing successful cooperation with regional organizations of the Western hemisphere which is "a logical consequence of its policy towards integration with the international community" representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry Nikita Matkovskiy told a briefing here today.

This cooperation aims at "new dynamics of Russian relations with states of the vast region for the sake of security, international stability and expansion of mutually beneficial bilateral relations," noted the diplomat.

This primarily concerns the Organization of American States (OAS) in which Russia has had the status of permanent observer for over three years. The Russian Foreign Ministry cannot ignore the increasing wish of many organization members for a larger influence of the organization on regional developments, especially consolidation of democratic principles of state and public systems, provision of human rights and freedoms and the search for political settlement and prevention of conflicts.

In the words of Matkovskiy, "many Latin Americans want the organization to play an important role in elimination of last hotbeds of global confrontation, including decreased tension around Cuba through its more active integration with the inter-American community and encouragement of positive changes in the state." OAS Secretary-General Cesar Gaviria shares these feelings.

The Russian Foreign Ministry is sure that the OAS evolution in this direction "will help expand the range of its interaction with off-regional states, including Russia, which is also of interest for the Russian Federation," said the diplomat.

Government Granted 'Guest Status' in Non-Aligned Movement

LD2604122495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1207 GMT 26 Apr 95

[By Andrey Bychkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JAKARTA, April 26 (ITAR-TASS)—Russia has been granted a guest status in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the second largest international forum after the United Nations, which unites more than 110 countires all over the world. ITAR-TASS today learned from diplomatic circles in Jakarta that this decision was officilly taken by the NAM Coordination Bureau in Bandung, situated 180 km. south of Jakarta, where its session is underway.

Thus, Russia has gained an access and right to participate in all NAM meetings and activities, not bearing a closed character. A similar status was granted to many countries of Western and Eastern Europe, including Germany, Australia, Canada and others.

Assessing this event, for the implementation of which a period of almost one year was required, a Russian diplomat, who requested not to be named, emphasised the importance of Russia acquiring the status of a guest, since the NAM represents an important factor in international relations, is an element of collective diplomacy called on to assist in the work of the United Nations, and the formation of a new world order during the post-cold war period.

The Non-Aligned Movement has been gaining increasing popularity in the world. That is why it is important for Moscow to take into consideration activities of the NAM on the one hand, and on the other it showed attention paid to problems of developing countries and respect for the role played by the NAM in the world policy.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin Announces Creation of Two Electoral Blocs

LD2504133695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1321 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced the creation of two centrist blocs which are to overwhelm both rightist and leftist extreme forces at the upcoming parliamentary elections in the country.

"Two election blocs are being created during preparations for elections to the State Duma. One of them will be headed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the other—by Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin", the president told the "Stability" parliamentary faction on Tuesday. The faction is viewed as a pro-Yeltsin force.

"We have decided that in order to cut off extreme leftist and rightist elements at the upcoming elections", Yeltsin said.

He added that the blocs "have to cover the whole of Russia and resolutely push out extreme forces during elections".

Chernomyrdin Comments on New Election Bloc

LD2504150095 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 25 Apr 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin made two sensational statements today. He made them during a solemn ceremony on Moscow's Hill of Honor. [passage omitted]

[Begin Chernomyrdin recording] This year's elections will be held in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation. No one should be in any doubt about this. Russia has had enough shocks. Russia has had enough of revolutions. Russia has had enough of being used as a test range. Russia is our home. It is our home and there should be accord and stability in a home. We must all work to create the conditions for normal work, for creativity, for creation. That is why in my opinion these elections are necessary.

We are going to take part in these elections. Not only that, but we are also going to set up a bloc—or, rather, it will be an electoral movement. Work is now under way to set it up. Along with my comrades-in-arms, my devotees, I will do everything to take part in these elections—to hold these elections at high level to have a State Duma that is worthy of us. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Filatov To Support New Alliance

LD2504151895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1444 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 25 (Interfax)—Presidential Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov will support the election alliance led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Filatov told Interfax it is the Prime Minister who effects the reforms and he is obliged to support Chernomyrdin in his intention to go ahead with reformist policies.

Filatov said that the President would cooperate with the new alliance founded on Tuesday in various ways.

Filatov said that an alliance of parties and movements interested in reforms had been contemplated for quite a long time. The alliance may incorporate those parties which have no "serious political influence" yet, but are backed by a "certain electorate."

Filatov refused to mention any parties that may join the alliance.

Filatov said Chernomyrdin's statement indicated that the time had come to pool all efforts to defend reforms. He said that a great deal remains to be done now in terms of contacting the electorate locally.

Chernomyrdin: Support for Yeltsin 'Absolute'

LD2504152895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1500 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Andrey Serov and Andrey Storch]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said in an interview with ITAR-TASS today that his support to President Boris Yeltsin is absolute.

The prime minister said he thought the parliamentary election must be held this year as laid down by the constitution, and announced that he intended to set up an electoral bloc of democratic forces.

"The election is necessary," Chernomyrdin said. "The country is living through difficult times. This is what we passed the Constitution for. Russia has had enough shocks and revolutions it must not be made a testing ground again. Russia is our home where accord and stability should reign and we must ensure conditions for normal work and creative endeavour. This is why we need elections," the prime minister said.

Yeltsin embraced the decision of Chernomyrdin to lead an electoral alliance. The president said in an interview with the RIA-NOVOSTI news agency: "I am sure that he will be able to bring together in his movement the most serious people for a serious cause. And I know firmly that Russia has far more such people than the sundry irresponsible extremists who are meddling with politics only to show off."

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Yeltsin stressed that the 1995 election to the State Duma "is the first election under the new Russian Constitution. This is another important step towards durable political stability. But this step should be made correctly".

The election, Yeltsin said, will make clear the real line-up of political forces in the country. "I would like to hope very much that the people of Russia understand that professionalism and experience are far more important than irresponsible gabbling," the president said.

Yeltsin: Chernomyrdin To Unite 'Serious People'

LD2504185295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1536 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 25 (Interfax)—President Boris Yeltsin is sure that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will manage to unite "serious people for serious business" in an election alliance now in the making.

"I firmly know that one can find in Russia many more such people rather than all kinds of irresponsible extremists, making their way into politics just for show-off", the president said when he was asked by a Russian News Agency reporter to comment on Chernomyrdin's intention to create an election movement.

Yeltsin declared: "Viktor Stepanovich is an experienced and authoritative leader, a professional not so easy to find. The decision he has made is not simple. And if he has taken up such a stupendous job, this means he knows that it is the most difficult and important business today."

"Elections to the Duma in 1995 will be the first elections in line with the new Russian constitution, Yeltsin noted. It is yet another major step toward political stability. But this step is yet to be taken correctly," Yeltsin remarked.

"So far we have been able only to divide ourselves, as for reuniting us, it has been much worse with it." "If people really unite, they do so more often against someone or against something. And what example they should follow, if all our branches of power pull in different directions, not to mention parties, factions, and movements. The Duma lacks a stable majority, the government works without normal support in the Federal Assembly," Yeltsin said.

In his opinion, elections will show the correlation of forces. "But still, I would like to hope very much that the Russians realize that professionalism and experience is far more important than irresponsible talk," the president stressed.

The text of Yeltsin's interview has been released by the presidential press-service.

Further Chernomyrdin Comments on Coalition

LD2504175495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 25 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature, compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has announced the formation of an election coalition.

Answering journalist questions in Moscow Tuesday about the reasons for this move he said:

"I think that it is high time for us to switch from various upheavals and revolutions to normal life, the stable and steady development of Russia, the strengthening of the security of its people.

Today the government needs reliable legislative backing. We should have a responsible parliamentary majority in the Duma. We should have a responsible professional government. We should have concerted actions between legislative and executive bodies.

I thought for a long time how this could be achieved, weighed up all the pros and cons. For me, an experienced professional manager, purely political activities are a largely new business. Popularity ratings aside, it is a separate and serious profession which requires very much energy and time.

I had to decide and I decided.

I intend to head an election alliance that will take part in elections to the State Duma. Both my supporters and I have started working in this direction.

I want to form a strong election movement so as not to give a chance to any extremists to win, so as to get the opportunity after December 12 to set up an efficient cabinet relying on the majority in the Duma.

I think that in two-three days I will be able to say more about our intentions and about what has been done already."

Chernomyrdin announced during his visit to the Victory Memorial in Moscow's Poklonnaya Hill that the parliamentary elections must be held according to the schedule set in the constitution. "Elections can neither be cancelled nor put off. This is the position shared by myself and the president," he said.

As Interfax has learned from a well placed government source, the Chernomyrdin-led alliance, loosely called social-democratic, is expected to bring together political groups relying on the backing of supporters of reforms as well as on domestic manufacturers and financiers. The alliance is expected to be joined by the Party of Russian Unity and Concord led by Deputy Prime-Minister Sergey Shakhray. According to Interfax information, an agreement to start working out a common election platform was reached Monday evening between Chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions Mikhail Shmakov, Co-Chairman of the Social Democratic Union Vasiliy Lipitskiy, Deputy Chairman of the Russian United Industrial Party Anatoliy Dolgolaptev, Chairman of the Union of Realists Yuriy Petrov (former leader of the presidential administration and head of the Russian Investment Corporation), and the

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leader of the Socialist Workers' Party and head of the State Duma's Analytical Center Ludmila Vartazarova.

Interfax learned from a participant in the conference who preferred to remain anonymous, "State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin showed interest in the efforts to form the bloc."

A week ago, at a meeting with youth, Rybkin said that two large blocs will be formed before the coming parliamentary and presidential elections by the new social democrats and by the liberals.

Chernomyrdin Justifies Creating Movement

MM2604102895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report under "Events of the Day" rubric: "V. Chernomyrdin To Head Election Movement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin stated that he intends to form an election movement.

The head of government stated that he will head this association and that this question was discussed with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. He delivered this statement in a conversation with journalists following a ceremony in which the All-Russia Book of Remembrance was handed over to the Great Patriotic War Museum on Poklonnaya Gora.

The prime minister went on to say that he wholly and completely supports President Boris Yeltsin and believes that parliamentary elections must take place this year according to the Russian Constitution.

"I believe," Chernomyrdin explained, "that the reasons for making this decision are that it is high time we made the transition from all sorts of upheavals and 'revolutions' to a normal life, to the stable and steady development of Russia, and to the strengthening of its citizens' security.

"The government now needs reliable legislative backup. We must have a responsible parliamentary majority in the Duma. We must have a responsible professional government. We must have coordinated actions between the legislative and executive branches.

"For a long time I pondered over how to achieve this, I weighed up all the arguments 'for' and 'against.' Purely political activity is largely a new thing to me as a seasoned professional business manager. Ratings are ratings, but this is a particularly serious profession which demands a great deal of effort and time.

"A decision had to be made. And I made it. I intend to head an election association which will take part in the State Duma elections. My supporters and I have already started work in this direction.

"I want to create a strong election movement in order to deny extremists the chance of winning elections and in order to gain the opportunity after 12 December to form an effective government backed by a majority in the Duma. I think that in two or three days I will be able to talk in more detail about both our intentions and what has already been done."

Yeltsin To Introduce Chechnya Moratorium From 27 Apr

LD2504174795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1721 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian president will introduce a moratorium on combat operations in Chechnya from April 27 to May 15, TASS learned from Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray Tuesday [25 April] who participated in drafting a corresponding decree of Boris Yeltsin.

Shakhray told TASS that the document is ready and that he hopes that during the moratorium "it may be possible to implement the peace initiative of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and put an end to the Chechen crisis".

Chernomyrdin said Tuesday that the moratorium would be introduced either today or Wednesday in connection with the celebrations of the 50th annivesrary of the victory in WW2.

Chernomyrdin Statement on Moratorium

LD2504200895 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 25 Apr 95

[Statement on the Chechen conflict by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on 25 April; place not given; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] I think that a document is being prepared today, maybe, if not today, then perhaps tomorrow. We want to do all we can to issue this document. It will probably be a presidential decree, by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, on declaring a moratorium on hostilities in Chechnya during the [Victory Day] celebrations. Last week we said in a government statement and once again at the conference in Chechnya that we are ready for unconditional talks with field commanders, with all influential figures capable of bringing about a suspension of the hostilities. We now want to appeal to everyone by presidential decree to establish a moratorium on all hostilities, for a time, for this sacred time. We would very much like everyone to respond. Constructive work is already under way in Chechnya, restoration work, the spring sowing campaign is ending. We should live.

Foreign Ministry Warns Against Harboring Dudayev

LD2504134195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1302 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—"Any decision to grant political refuge to [Chechen leader] Dzhokhar Dudayev or to any of his close associates by any foreign state will be regarded as a hostile act against the Russian Federation," said Nikita Matkovskiy, spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry press and information department, today.

He recalled that Russia's prosecutor general instituted criminal proceedings against Dzhokhar Dudayev, and that he has been declared a wanted man by the Interior Ministry bodies. These circumstances should be taken into account when considering this issue, the Russian diplomat opined.

Chechnya Restoration Commission Officials Appointed

MM2504123795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 95 First Edition p 3

[Russian Federation Government decree No. 342 "On Deputy Chairmen of the State Commission for Restoring the Economy and Social Sphere of the Chechen Republic," dated 15 April 1995: "New Managers Coming"—ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow—The Russian Federation Government decrees:

1. That the following appointments be made:

Petr Sergeyevich Surov, chief of the Russian Federation Government apparatus investments and construction department to the post of first deputy chairman of the State Commission for Restoring of the Economy and Social Sphere of the Chechen Republic with the rank of Russian Federation minister;

Nikolay Ivanovich Semenov, leader of the territorial administration of federal organs of executive power in the Chechen Republic, to the post of deputy chairman of the State Commission for Restoring the Economy and Social Sphere of the Chechen Republic.

2. That point 4 of the Russian Federation Government 21 February 1995 decree No. 176 "On Additional Measures To Restore the Economy and Social Sphere of the Chechen Republic (collected legislation of the Russian Federation 1995 No. 9, p 763) should read as follows:

"4. The Russian Federation Government apparatus investments and construction department should be charged with organizational and technical backup for the activity of the State Commission for Restoring the Economy and Social Sphere of the Chechen Republic (hereinafter referred to as the State Commission).

"The necessary structural subdivisions within this department should be formed within the established procedure for these purposes."

3. That point 9 of the statute on the State Commission for Restoring the Economy and Social Sphere of the Chechen Republic approved by the Russian Federation Government 21 February 1995 decree No. 176 should read as follows:

"9. The first deputy and deputy chairman of the State Commission are appointed to their posts and relieved of their posts by the chairman of the Russian Federation Government upon representation from the State Commission chairman.

"The first deputy chairman of the State Commission on instructions from its chairman or in his absence has the right:

"to hold sessions of the State Commission,

"to coordinate the activity of federal organs of executive power and organs of executive power of the Chechen Republic in carrying out restoration work in the Chechen Republic;

"to agree on the volumes and uses of financial and material resources earmarked to restore the economy and social sphere of the Chechen Republic in accordance with the federal targeted program for the restoration of the economy and social sphere of the Chechen Republic;

"to submit within the established procedure to the Russian Federation Government proposals on questions connected with restoration work in the Chechen Republic;

"to take part in the allocation of funds from the unified fund for the implementation of the federal targeted program to restore the economy and social sphere of the Chechen Republic;

"to ask the federal organs of executive power which are general clients for information about the targeted use of funds earmarked for restoration work in the Chechen Republic;

"to make decisions on holding competitions for the execution of restoration work in the Chechen Republic at individual projects by foreign construction firms and organizations."

4. That point 2 of the Russian Federation Government 21 February 1995 decree No. 176 be deemed to be invalid.

[Signed] Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin.

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Discuss Taxes, Budget, Banks, Trade

MM2604100695 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 95 First Edition p 1

[Report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA/ITAR-TASS column under "Protocol" rubric: "Working Meeting"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin held a routine working meeting in

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the Kremlin with V.S.Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers.

During the conversation they considered, in particular, questions regarding tax reform, the tightening of budget discipline, and the functioning of the banking system. The president and premier discussed problems of mutual relations between the Central Bank of Russia and commercial banks. Questions regarding the improvement of the country's foreign trade ties were also broached.

Yeltsin Signs Four Laws, Three Edicts

LD2404145595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1446 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 24 (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian presidential press service said on Monday [24 April] Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed today the following federal laws: "on ratifying the convention between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Korea on avoiding double taxation in case of income taxes" (the law was adopted by the Russian State Duma on March 17, 1995, and approved by the Council of the Federation on April 12, 1995);

"On ratifying the agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on avoiding double taxation and preventing tax evasion in case of income taxes" (the law was adopted by the State Duma on March 17, 1995, and approved by the Council of the Federation on April 12, 1995); "on rescheduling debt for centralised credits and accrued interest of organizations of the agro-industrial complex, as well as organizations providing supplies (storage and selling) of products (goods) in far northern regions and areas possessing the same status" (the law was adopted by the State Duma on April 12, 1995, and approved by the Council of the Federation on April 13, 1995);

"On ratifying the agreement on cooperation in the field of occupational migration and social protection of working migrants" (the law was adopted by the State Duma on March 24, 1995, and approved by the Council of the Federation on April 12, 1995).

The press service also said the Russian president accepted a resignation of head of the Sakhalin region Krasnoyarov Yevgeniy Alekseevich which was prompted by a transfer to another job. By another decree, Yeltsin ruled to appoint Farkhutdinov Igor Pavlovich to fill the post.

The president also signed the decree "on the analytical department of the president of the Russian Federation". Aiming to put in order the structure of the Russian presidential administration, the analytical centre at the Russian president has been renamed into the analytical department of the Russian president, the press service said.

Stability Group Leader on Meeting With Yeltsin

LD2504201295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 25 (Interfax)—President Boris Yeltsin and Stability group MPs exchanged views on the situation in the country and the next elections during their meeting in the Kremlin Tuesday.

The presidential press service reported that the president and the deputies agreed on numerous issues, in particular, on the need to hold the elections as scheduled.

Yeltsin expressed his views on the setting up of two electoral blocs, one centrist left and the other centrist right, and supported Stability in the group's desire to pursue a centrist policy, the press service reported.

Aleksey Leushkin, a Stability co-chairman, told Interfax that the president supported the setting up of electoral blocs headed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin.

He called on the Stability group members and on the Stable Russia movement to make up their mind on which bloc to join. Yeltsin emphasized that he regards them as president's supporters and is prepared to back them, Leushkin said.

According to Leushkin, Yeltsin endorsed Stability's view that 300 State Duma members have to be elected in single seat constituencies while 150 on party tickets. Leushkin emphasized that the president is likely to veto the legislation passed by the State Duma under which this proportion is set as 225 to 225.

Leushkin said that at the meeting the Stability group supported the action of the federal authorities in the Chechen Republic. He did not believe that Yeltsin is prepared to suspend hostilities in Chechnya.

Another MP who attended the meeting, Vadim Bulavinov, said that fighting crime had also been discussed at the meeting.

Yeltsin told the MPs that he will send to the State Duma a bill on the status and powers of judges.

Bulavinov said that Yeltsin was worried over the local "princes" tearing up the Russian Federation. Yeltsin told the deputies that a bill is being drafted on power sharing between the federal and regional authorities.

The presidential press service also reported that the deputies agreed with the president that the setting up of a Public Russian Television is a desirable event.

Yeltsin Greets Christians Day Later Than Expected

MM2604101095 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Sergey Frolov: "On What Did the President Congratulate Us?"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian president's attendance at the annual Easter service has become almost a state tradition, and so, when Boris Yeltsin did not appear in public on the first day of Easter this year, spiteful commentators really screwed up their eyes with pleasure: This means he has fallen ill!

But the Russian leader, who has grown accustomed to unconventional moves, at once got the better of the gossips—a day later he appeared on the steps of the Cathedral of the Dormition in the Kremlin and, as is the custom, congratulated Orthodox Christians on the festival. Admittedly, the mischievous spring sun evidently caused the president to go into excessive raptures, and so at the start of his congratulatory message he made a slip and for some reason congratulated Orthodox Christians on the birth of Christ. Fortunately, however, not one news agency remarked on this.

In general, the president's meeting with the congregation was full of spirituality and emotion. The state leader pointed out that the ideas of the celebration of Easter are gaining an increasingly wide hold on the masses year by year, which is evidently why economic and financial stabilization awaits Russians this year. Then the president and the patriarch exchanged Easter gifts: Boris Yeltsin received an enormous Easter egg, while Aleksiy II received the keys to a new office in the patriarch's apartments. Now both leaders will be working not far from each other.

'Press Club' Examines Presidential Security Service

LD2404233895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1925 GMT broadcasts a 60-minute live "Press Club" program on the presidential security service, which is headed by Major General Korzhakov.

Visually, the highlight of the program is footage from a 150-minute film entitled "The President's Guards" (in English) by Odessa film director Valeriy Fedosov. It contains footage of training exercises, illustrating how the president's bodyguards would react to various kinds of attack, e.g. the presidential motorcade being shelled on a snow-covered winter road. Presenter Pavel Vedenyapin describes the film as "a two-and-a-half-hour film which has not yet been shown in full anywhere."

After these lengthy sequences, the whole question is thrown open to the studio audience, which consists mainly of journalists, parliamentary deputies, and security service veterans. General Korzhakov had been invited to attend, but had declined to come. The service is represented during the program by Andrey Vladimirovich Oligov, identified simply by the caption "RF President's Security Service," but he is subsequently called "the press secretary" by one of the journalists.

The highlights are as follows. At one point in the discussion, a journalist hints that there was a secret Yeltsin decree that regulated the activities of his security service, and Oligov says: "Yes, there do exist normative documents that regulate the activities of the president's security service as an independent federal body which is entrusted with the task of ensuring the president's safety totally. I think it would be very risky to say, on behalf of some journalists, that society is interested in that specific problem. I want to say that, at the moment, the president's security service is a security service with quite few staff, seen from the point of view of accepted world practice, but it is obliged to have all the attributes that any special service has. That's the way things are. There must be analytical work, and there must be elements of counterintelligence activities."

Faced subsequently with the question of whether there have been attempts on Yeltsin's life, Oligov makes the point at first that no security service would ever say how it had foiled such attacks, but, when pressed, he says: "Yes, there have been occasions." However, he declines to comment further.

Asked about staff numbers and pay in the presidential security service, Oligov replies: "Currently, the president's security service staffing should consist of 1,250. At the moment, we have 800 people actually working on the staff of the president's security service."

Turning to the question of pay, Oligov says: "You know that half of us are officers, so, naturally, my salary, for example, consists of several so-called component parts. Well, I, for instance, am the head of a section, a small subunit. I have a salary of 430,000 rubles (R). There are additions for the fact that I am a lieutenant colonel, and I have a length-of-service allowance. I receive about R670,000 every month." This elicits the comment "not much" from another member of the audience.

The staffing figure is challenged shortly afterward. An OBSHCHAYA GAZETA reporter mentions a figure of 20,000. It is suggested that this figure refers to the staffing of the Main Directorate for Protection as a whole. At this point, a man captioned as "Sergey Devyatov, Main Directorate for Protection," says: "The figure is close to the one given by OBSHCHAYA GAZETA."

Chernomyrdin at Book of Remembrance Ceremony

MM2604093795 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Rubtsov: "To Safeguard Forever! The Central Museum of the Great Patriotic War Has Been Given the All-Russian Book of Remembrance for Eternal Safekeeping"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The solemn ceremony of the presentation took place in the Hall of Glory in the memorial complex on Poklonnaya Gora.

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Handing over the all-union martyrology for eternal safekeeping, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin assessed the work that has been carried out as unique. This book's more than 700 volumes contain 11 million names, so that every Russian will find in it the cherished name of his grandfather, father, mother, brother...

At the same time, representatives of over 60 krays, oblasts, and republics handed over their regional Books of Remembrance for eternal safekeeping.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov, Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, Culture Minister Yevgeniy Sidorov, and Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, took part in the ceremony.

Summary of Latest Government Decisions

MM2404154295 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report from the "Corridors of Power" column: "Decisions"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Prepare the Budget by the Summer, But Without Rushing the Forecast

Viktor Chernomyrdin has signed a decree "On Compiling the Forecast for the Socioeconomic Development of the Russian Federation and the Draft Federal Budget for 1996." The Ministry of the Economy, with the participation of the Ministry of Finance and other federal organs of executive power, and the Central Bank are instructed to submit to the government scenarios for the functioning of the country's economy in 1996, incorporating target parameters and major decisions in the sphere of financial and economic stabilization and in social, investment, structural, and regional policy.

The Organizers Are the Only Certain Winners of Lotteries

The procedure governing the issue of permits for the organization of lotteries has been ratified by the government decree "On Regulating the Procedure for Holding Lotteries on the Territory of the Russian Federation." In accordance with this document, the All-Russia Lottery may be organized only by a corporate body and only on condition that its activity has enjoyed favorable financial results for at least one year. Lottery permits are issued by the Russian Ministry of Finance for a period of no more than three years. The holding of sports lotteries (including the use of an appropriate logo) requires the additional agreement of the Russian president's Coordinating Committee for Physical Culture and Sports.

Goods for Russian Establishments in CIS Countries Are Exempt From Duty

The "Statute on Customs Procedures Governing the Export of Certain Goods to States Which Were Formerly USSR Republics" has been ratified by order of the Russian State [Customs] Committee. The document makes clear that it applies mainly to goods intended to back up the activity of medical, sports-recreational, and other establishments in the social sphere located on the territory of those states whose property is federally owned and to goods intended to enable the conduct—on a noncommercial basis—of scientific research work in Russia's interests which fall within the scope of these procedures. Such goods are exported without the imposition of customs duties or the application of measures of economic policy.

Zhirinovskiy To Run for Presidency, Stop 'Gangsterism'

LD2404140495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1329 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 24 (Interfax)—Russian Liberal-Democratic leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has confirmed his intention to run for Russian president in an Interfax interview today.

He said he will "stop the gangsterism and civil war going on in the country" if he comes to power. "The war is under way in the Caucasus, tomorrow it may start in Crimea and Tajikistan," said Zhirinovskiy.

Estimating the chances of President Boris Yeltsin of being re- elected, the party leader said he thought that Yeltsin is quite able to gain 15% of votes. "There are elderly people who are always afraid of something new and will vote only for the one who is in office," Zhirinovskiy believes.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Gen. Lebed Learns of Army Reorganization Through Media

LD2504125195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1135 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chisinau, 25 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Lt- Gen Aleksandr Lebed told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today that he intends to leave his post of commander of the 14th Army because of the imminent reorganization of its administration. Gen Lebed stressed that the administration of the 14th Army stationed in the Dniester region will cease to exist in accordance with the directorate of the Russian defense minister. This means, in Aleksandr Lebed's words, that "the commander of the army will be left without a job."

In Lebed's opinion, the reduction of the command of the 14th Army planned by the Russian Defense Ministry should not happen until the Dniester problem is settled and all the other conditions for implementing the agreement between Moldova and Russia on withdrawing Russian troops are created. "You cannot expect an army

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to go on operating like a well-run mechanism if you cut off its head against a background of a mass of unsolved problems," Aleksandr Lebed stressed.

The proper conditions have yet to be created for the army to be reorganized, the commander stressed. According to him, "we have still to observe any progress" at the negotiations between Chisinau and Tiraspol on settling the Dniester conflict and granting that region special status. Nor have the main conditions for implementing the agreement between Moldova and Russia on withdrawing troops been created. In the first place this has to do with Moldova's contribution to the construction of housing for the servicemen withdrawn, the division of the army's property, and the transportation of arms and munitions across Ukrainian territory.

"Unfortunately, I learned of the decision to reform the army staff from the press," the general said. "None of my leaders have yet informed me of this and no one has offered me any post either." [passage omitted]

Navy Commander Gromov Cited on Baltic Fleet Performance

MM2604100995 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Gromak: "Fleet Passes Exam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of admirals and officers under the leadership of Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Navy, has concluded its work in the Baltic Fleet.

As the commander in chief of the Navy noted when summing up the results, the fleet has successfully passed the test, although the results could have been better. The shortcomings which were revealed, and these permeate practically all aspects of the fleet's daily life—from staff competence to the physical fitness of the officers—can only be eradicated with strict supervision and strict accountability for the state of affairs, according to Admiral Gromov.

General Details Automation of Army Command and Control Systems

MM2404140295 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Apr 95 p 4

[Article by Lieutenant General Viktor Bazhenov, deputy chief of communications of the Russian Federation Armed Forces and chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces Computerization and Automation Directorate, under the "From the Horse's Mouth" rubric: "Computer Technology Being Called Up"—from the "Russia's Computer World" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the political and socioeconomic conditions prevailing in the Russian Federation, which adheres to a defensive military doctrine, the Armed Forces' organizational development is based primarily on qualitative parameters. This calls for a quest for new ways to maintain the country's defense capability, one of which is the use of information technology in the Armed Forces.

This implies the process of large-scale introduction and application in various spheres of the Russian Federation Armed Forces' peacetime and wartime activities of methods, means, and systems for the acquisition, transmission, collection, processing, storage, and utilization of data for decision making. The topicality of this process was confirmed by Army General P. Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, at a conference of the Russian Federation Armed Forces' leadership personnel (held in 1994), at which he set to the General Staff, the branches of the Armed Forces, and the Ministry of Defense main and central directorates the task of introducing automation (information technology) down to the level of large strategic formations.

Despite the comprehensive automation of command and control and the computerization being implemented in the Armed Forces, the information backup for the solution of tasks in various spheres of activity, and primarily in the Russian Federation Armed Forces' routine activity, still remains inadequate. The automated systems for command and control of troops and weapons which have been developed so far, although they have substantially enhanced the stability and efficiency of command and control, have failed to overcome the rather serious lagging in the automation of command and control at lower levels. This is due primarily to the insufficient financial, material, technical, and scientific resources allocated to the Ministry of Defense scientific research institutes and to industry. Consequently, facilities lack sources of information, the automation of the troop's routine activity is lagging, and there is inadequate automation of processes associated with intellectual activity which play an especially great role in the tasks of appraising the situation and of planning, preparing, and adopting decisions in real time.

Awareness of the scale and nature of this activity makes it necessary to amend our views as regards the development and application of computerization means and of telecommunications and information technologies in all spheres of the Russian Federation Armed Forces' activity. Computerization in the sphere of Armed Forces' command and control should eliminate these shortcomings and should also ensure a unified information base for existing and future command and control systems and the broad introduction in all spheres of the Russian Federation Armed Forces' activity of new information technologies including artificial intelligence systems, military knowledge database systems, and technologies and hardware for designing specialized mathematical, programming, and information-linguistic backup.

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In contemporary conditions, decisions concerning the combat use of men, equipment, and weapons in operations must be made on the basis of the results of mathematical modeling and a large volume of methodological and algorithmic calculations performed by high-productivity servers (computers) using data on one's own troops and the opponent's troops gathered promptly (in real time) with the help of automated control systems.

This is why at present the Ministry of Defense (the Chief of Communications of the Russian Federation Armed Forces Directorate), jointly with industry, is engaged in development work on the creation of a Ministry of Defense telecommunications network which is intended to provide, in conjunction with the state information-telecommunications network, information collaboration with state and local organs of power.

The Ministry of Defense telecommunications network is being built with due consideration for the command and control structure of the Russian Federation Armed Forces and, consequently, allows for the development of large-scale topology across Russia's entire territory ensuring the exchange of data between territorial communications systems with stage-by-stage development of information systems at regional level. The Ministry of Defense telecommunications network is also intended to ensure exchange of information in the interests of defense industry enterprises. It has virtually no limitations as regards expansion possibilities to provide access and service to subscriber facilities and is a distributive structure functioning on the principles of packet switch networks.

As far as subscribers are concerned, the Ministry of Defense telecommunications network is an open-type network whose architecture conforms with the international seven-level standard model of open system interface.

The technical basis of the Ministry of Defense telecommunications network is provided by technical system units being developed on the basis of modern computer technology; network access units; automatic packet switch centers; internetwork interface gateways which ensure the Ministry of Defense telecommunications network's joint functioning with diverse networks and subnetworks and function on the basis of other information exchange protocols; subscriber terminals connectable to the Ministry of Defense telecommunications network which could be various items of information technology, automation, and document exchange operating as sources and recipients of information.

The development of the network's package of hardware is based on Russian-made and partly imported elements. This process is making use of new technologies ensuring the development of zero-level and low-level manning hardware which substantially reduces costs and does not require any special preparation of premises.

During the first stage (1995) it is planned to offer the telecommunications network's resources to the Armed Forces General Staff and to individual branches of the Armed Forces and the main military districts which resolve priority tasks in the organizational development of the Russian Federation Armed Forces.

In parallel with the development of its telecommunications network, the Ministry of Defense is also engaged in extensive research and development on the assimilation and utilization of the latest information technologies. These technologies are being used as basis for the development of systems for the command and control of troops, weapons, reconnaissance, and combat support. In this work the Ministry of Defense gives preference to our own industry and orders computer hardware, local area networks, software, and network equipment from Russian industrial enterprises.

These enterprises include the "IVK" Joint-Stock Company (Moscow), the NITsEVT Joint-Stock Company (Moscow), the "Korund-M" Design Bureau jointly with the Russian Academy of Sciences Scientific Research Institute for Systems Studies (Moscow), the "Evrika" Joint-Stock Company (LOMO, St. Petersburg), the "Discovery Informatika" Joint-Stock Company (Moscow), the "Vyborgskiy Priborostroitelnyy Zavod" Production Association (Vyborg), and others.

It is necessary to note that the components base of general purpose personal computers supplied to the Ministry of Defense by our own enterprises is 70-80 percent, and in individual cases even 90 percent, imported. But this does not at all mean, as some computer media report, that the "potential" adversary may be in a position to know more about the equipment being used than the user himself. The rigid system of specifications which computer technology has to meet according to the technical conditions specified by the purchaser (the Ministry of Defense) for the manufacturing process limits this "may be" to a minimum and rules out any such possibility.

By no means all enterprises appear on the list of enterprises entitled to supply the Ministry of Defense with computer hardware using imported components. The enterprises appearing on this list and their output must meet rigid requirements: They must have a certificate from the Russian Federation State Committee for Standardization, Metrology, and Certification for the products being supplied; the hardware and software must meet a set of demands as regards data security as laid down by the relevant normative documents; the computer equipment being supplied must meet high reliability and utilization specifications (average mean time between failures of at least 10,000 hours). Furthermore, it is mandatory for suppliers of computer equipment to have their own high-technology production units on Russian Federation territory. The warranty period for personal computers, software, and netware must not be less than three years. (Now we are examining the question of increasing this period to five years). The cost of personal computers, software, and netware, including all

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supplementary expenditure, cannot exceed the current average market prices in the Russian Federation. The software must meet requirements as regards its customization for the solution of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense tasks. The manufacturer's (user) manuals, including software manuals, must be supplied in the Russian language. The personal computers, software, and netware must be able to perform as parts of diverse (heterogeneous) networks. Finally, all the software must be licensed and certified by the relevant Russian Federation Ministry of Defense centers.

Once it has been established that the enterprise in question meets these requirements, several specimens of its output are sent to one of the Ministry of Defense scientific research institutes for testing and for a more detailed analysis of its design performance and work potential as part of local (regional) networks. The results of this analysis are used to prepare a conclusion about the compliance of the supplied computer equipment with the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense requirements, and a proposal is made to include the manufacturer's enterprise on the "List."

Let me clarify straightaway that the aforementioned procedures apply only to general purpose computer equipment used for the development of local (regional) area networks at Ministry of Defense command and control organs and staffs, at testing grounds, at higher military education establishments, and at institutions and organizations involved in routine activities. Specialized information technologies, including technologies built from Russian-made components on par with Western technologies, are being used for systems to command and control manpower (equipment and weapons) in special periods or in emergency situations. But this topic can be left till our next conversation.

An exhibition of "Computer Technologies Ordered by the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense" was held at the "IVK" concern in November 1994 at the initiative of the Ministry of Defense (the Chief of Communications of the Russian Federation Armed Forces Directorate) and the Computerization Committee under the Russian Federation president. This was the first such exhibition. We wanted to draw the attention of state organizations, Russian industry, and the "power" ministries to the fact that we are forced to purchase components for the personal computers being supplied to us under license technologies. This stage has been forced upon us and it may last for 5-7 and maybe even 10-15 years. But we are confident that our own industry and state structures will be able to extricate our country from this difficult position in the sphere of the development of computer data systems.

In October 1995 the Ministry of Defense (the Chief of Communications of the Russian Federation Armed Forces Directorate), jointly with the developers and manufacturers of computer technologies, is planning to hold an exhibition to demonstrate Russian industry's latest achievements as regards Ministry of Defense orders for personal computers, peripheral equipment, and software.

Stepashin Urges Improved Nuclear Security Systems

LD2504163795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1503 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Evald Kessariyskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nizhniy Novgorod, 25 Apr—"Not a single gram of plutonium has left the sites where it is stored," Sergey Stepashin, the head of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent in Nizhniy Novgorod today.

He is holding a collegium itinerary session in this town situated on the river Volga. At the meeting, problems relating to the provision of security on the sites of the nuclear and military-industrial complex and to the protection of state secrets in contemporary conditions are being discussed. In reply to a request by ITAR-TASS to impart his view of the problem, Stepashin said that in contemporary conditions nuclear security systems need to be improved. "This applies to the Armed Forces and nuclear potential and to the question of keeping state secrets. However, much depends on funding which has been cut several times," the departmental head said.

Sergey Stepashin said that a letter to the president would be prepared at the end of the session "proposing to change the situation for the better."

A visit by the members of the collegium to the Arzamas-16 nuclear center on Wednesday [26 April] will be a logical end to the collegium's meeting.

No Theft of Weapons-Grade Nuclear Material Registered

LD2104192095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1758 GMT 21 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 21 (INTERFAX)—In an interview with INTERFAX Friday, the press secretary of the director of the Foreign Intelligence Service (Russian acronym SVR), Tatyana Samolis, declined to comment on the German media's reports that the hyped story on smuggling Russian weapon quality plutonium to the West last year turned out to be the "skillful performance" by the German Federal Intelligence Service.

At the same time, asked if such actions by the German special service were appropriate in the context of cooperation in preventing the proliferation of nuclear arms,

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Samolis emphasized that "this experiment arouses a number of our questions." However, she declined to go further into details.

According to all information available, Russia's military nuclear installations are completely sealed off at the moment, she added. At the same time, she admitted that "small thefts from civil nuclear complexes could take place."

"The reality is that not a single case of stealing nuclear materials of weapon-grade quality has been registered in the world," she emphasized.

According to Samolis, "the Russian special services possess evidence that the most scandalous cases are often tied to an order by or unscrupulous activities of certain countries' police or even deliberate stimulation of black market agents with big money."

Samolis stressed that the Russian special services had never made a good face to a bad game and always said: "If you have discovered something somewhere, let's conduct an expert evaluation."

"However, not a single experiment has confirmed a weapon quality nuclear leakage from Russia," she added.

Nuclear Accidents Affect 30,000 Moscow Residents

LD2404165395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 24 (Interfax)—A total of 30,000 Moscow residents have been affected by nuclear accidents, including 25,000 during the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in the spring and summer of 1986, a deputy chairman of the State Commission for Chernobyl Disaster, Anatoliy Nazarov, told a news conference in Moscow Monday.

According to Nazarov, the number of invalids among those who were directly involved in the desactivation has doubled over the last two years. First and second group invalids accounts for 13% of them.

The rates of endocrinological diseases, mental disturbances, impairment of blood circulation, digestive and blood diseases are much higher among them than average throughout Moscow.

The leading sociologist of the Sociological Studies Institute under the Russian Academy of Sciences, Alla Mozgovaya, said that 30% of those returned from Chernobyl experienced worse matrimonial relationship as a result of various diseases, 40% changed job and 35% cannot cope with it.

Despite all this, "the state financing of the program for social protection of those affected by the Chernobyl disaster is half of what was in 1994," Nazarov said.

Federal Assembly

Rybkin Noncommittal on Heading New Agrarian Bloc

LD2504212495 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 25 Apr 95

[Report by correspondent M. Lillevyali, with recorded remarks by Ivan Rybkin, speaker of the State Duma; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The speaker of parliament's lower chamber defended his thesis on the establishment and development of parliamentarianism in Russia today during an application for the degree of doctor of political sciences. Ivan Rybkin neither confirmed, nor denied the information on his participation in creating a fundamentally new parliamentary election bloc.

[Rybkin] Yes, in my view the bloc is already beginning to take shape. The prime minister has spoken of one bloc, the other one is an electoral association of Agrarian Party of Russia, which includes the Agrarian Union and agrarian trade unions. Many youth and women's organizations are also striving to join it now. It is quite possible that the bloc will exist.

[Lillevyali] Asked whether he is ready to head the new electoral bloc, Rybkin recalled that he is a member of the board of the Agrarian Party of Russia.

[Rybkin] Is it really necessary to head it? One can join it. But it is difficult to say how it will be in reality. [video shows Rybkin at parliamentary session, addressing camera]

Duma Adopts Statement on Tajik-Afghan Situation

MM2604102195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 95 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "At the State Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma has adopted a statement "In Connection With the Situation on the Tajik-Afghan Border."

It says that the Duma views with great disquiet the military escalation in the Tajik-Afghan border region, which has resulted in the deaths of and injuries to dozens of Russian, Kazakhstani, and Tajik servicemen. These perfidious actions have resulted in the considerable worsening of the military-political situation in the region.

The statement goes on to say that the State Duma will take steps within the framework of parliamentary diplomacy to cooperate with the countries of Central Asia. It expects Russian Federation organs of state power to take coordinated steps to eliminate the factors which are

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giving rise to the systematic military provocations in the Tajik-Afghan border region.

Public Commission on Chechnya Planned

LD2504173095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1417 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 25 (Interfax)—A group of deputies from the Federation Council and from the Russian State Duma has voiced its intention to set up a public commission on restoring peace to Chechnya.

A statement of intent, a copy of which reached Interfax on Tuesday, was signed by the Federation Council members Viktor Kurochkin, Pavel Steyn, Igor Gladkov and by the State Duma deputies Valeriy Borshchev, Vladimir Lysenko, Mikhail Molostvov, Aleksandr Ochirov, Lev Ponomarev, and Yuliy Rybakov.

They welcomed an appeal by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to the people of Chechnya, as a document where the government for the first time expressed the desire to "enter into talks with the command of the armed forces, confronting the federal troops in the Chechen republic to get both sides to cease fire without any preconditions."

For this reason, the task of the commission, according to the document is to contribute to devising a mechanism that would help to put Chernomyrdin's initiative into effect, make the idea of a peace settlement appealing to society, and exercise public control over the process toward a peaceful solution to the conflict.

"Being involved for a long time in attempts to settle the conflict, we realize that this initiative may be frustrated as were the previous ones," the parliamentarians noted. It is for this reason that we deem it extremely important to attract public attention to such a responsible statement by the Prime Minister and do all they could to implement it.

The deputies declared readiness to act as mediators between the sides, if necessary.

Case for 'Ex Officio' Senate Argued

MM2504104295 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Apr 95 pp 1-2

[Unattributed article: "Constitutional Status of Federation Council: Means of Formation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday the State Duma began examining draft laws on the procedure for forming the Federation Council. In this connection it would seem to be of interest to address the history of the question and how it was discussed by the Constitutional Conference in 1993, which elaborated a concept for the ways of forming the Federation Council.

The Legislative Foundation

As you know, the Russian Federation Constitution established varying procedures for the formation of the chambers of the Federation Council. The State Duma consists of 450 deputies, the Federation Council consists of two deputies from each Federation component: one each from the representative and executive organs of state power. Article 96 of the Constitution clearly distinguishes the ways in which the two chambers are organized: One of them—the State Duma—is elected, while the other—the Federation Council—is formed.

Thus, the Constitution unequivocally resolved the following following question: The Federation Council is formed not by means of the election of the aforesaid two representatives from each Federation component (this idea is also confirmed by Section 2 Point 7 of the Constitution under which the Federation Council first convocation is elected). The fact that a member of the Federation Council is not elected is also enshrined by Article 97 Part 2 of the Constitution and by other constitutional provisions—unlike a State Duma deputy, who is elected.

Therefore any proposals to elect members of the Federation Council, regardless of the means of this election, are unconstitutional since they eradicate the essence of the federal country's representative (legislative) organ: namely to express the interests not only of voters but also of Federation components. [passage omitted]

Grounds for Formation of Federation Council

What is the difference between election and formation? Elected persons (deputies) represent their voters, nothing more, although they also represent the whole multiethnic people of Russia. A chamber formed of officials from Federation components gives the chamber a new quality—namely, parliament rulings are coordinated with Federation components. It is therefore quite logical for the leaders of a Federation component's executive and legislative organs to automatically be these representatives. By virtue of their position, jurisdiction, and accountability the top men will represent the Federation component's interests rather than their own or those of some group of voters.

This formula for the formation of the Federation Council, first, reflects the specific features of federalism and enshrines the representation of Federation components, second, ensures Federation components' equality in the Russian representative organ of state power, and, third, the participation of the heads of the components' executive organs and the leaders of their legislative organs prevents the adoption of laws which are divorced from the realities of life or for which there is no mechanism for their implementation, since it is the leaders of these organs that have to implement the laws. This kind of representation in the chamber will make it possible to create the optimum blend of Federation and component interests.

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Bringing the top men into the chamber will help strengthen the state's unity, intensify federative principles (let us remind you that in the previous Supreme Soviet it was hard to discern the formal existence of two chambers just as it was, moreover, in the union parliament).

A number of provisions of the Constitution confirm the idea that the Federation Council should be formed from top officials:

—the chamber's status as the representative body for Federation components' organs of state power;

—the session procedure governing the work of the chamber, unlike the elected State Duma, which operates on a permanent basis;

—the impossibility of the Russian Federation president dissolving the Federation Council;

—the chamber's lack of a term of office; it operates on a permanent basis, unlike the State Duma, fpr which there are regular elections. This means that there are no restrictions on representatives' term in the chamber. As long as a representative does his duty he is a member of the Federation Council. This may be a matter of a few months or many years;

—"ex officio" membership of the chamber preserves continuity in the work of the entire parliament;

—the lack of a provision regarding procedure for the replacement of a member of the Federation Council. Whereas deputies from the lower chamber regularly have to run for reelection, there is no mechanism in the Constitution for replacing one member of the chamber with another. The Constitution simply suggests that the leaders of the representative-executive power should enter this chamber.

The procedure for the formation of the Federation Council will be laid down by federal law. Since elections of any kind to this chamber contravene the provisions of the Constitution, this chamber may in principle be formed on the principle of the direct representation of Federation members, i.e. ex officio.

The Federation Council embodies representation for Russian Federation components. This is the first time that there has been a constitutional norm which says that it is formed precisely from representatives of Federation components. Under the previous 1978 Constitution, organs of state power of Russian republics, krays, oblasts, and other component parts of Russia did not take part in the formation of the Soviet of Nationalities. Under the new Constitution the chamber not only expresses the interests of all components but is also closely linked with these components' legislative and executive organs of state power. The correctness of this approach will make it possible to avoid the situation that occurred with the collapse of the Union where deputies of the Union Supreme Soviet elected from the republics did not rely in practice on their supreme soviets and governments and often opposed them.

The former Supreme Soviet also had calamitous experience of coordinating draft laws. If Federation components' top officials are not present in the parliament it is virtually impossible to coordinate a draft with 89 components. If there is a chamber formed of the leaders of the Federation components' representative and executive organs of power, this ensures an opportunity to instantly coordinate a draft law which pertains to their interests. Section 2 of the Constitution enshrined the mandatory participation in the chamber of components' actual organs of state power.

At the last minute the words about the Federation Council being formed from leaders of the executive and representative power were removed from the draft Constitution since, whereas the situation was entirely clear with representative organs, the system of executive organs was not clear. In some components the system of executive organs is headed up by a president and in others by another official. The current mild wording was taken as a base, giving the components the right to make the appropriate entry in the draft law currently under discussion by the State Duma.

Logic indicates that today leaders of Federation components' legislative and executive bodies should implement this representation, thus providing constitutional representation in the federal parliament for people vested with the authority to speak on behalf of these organs.

As ex officio members of the chamber, these people lose their membership as soon as they quit their job for a particular reason.

Deputies Said Concentrating on Electioneering

MM2604112495 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 95 First Edition p 1

[Article by Evgeniy Skukin: "One Deputy Says Something, Another Adds to It...: Parliamentarians Spending More and More Time on Pre-Election Self-Promotion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to data from the department of organizational backup for State Duma sessions, setting the order of business for just 15 sessions this year used up 18 hours and 4 minutes—that is, more than three plenary sessions. The average figure for one session is 1 hour and 12 minutes, or 21.8 percent. That is how much of a plenary session's total time is expended on "fruitless talk"! And deputies wasted the greatest amount of time on setting the agenda of the session which took place 10 March this year.

Among the ways, considered at various times, of reining in the deputies' flights of fancy which are irrelevant to lawmaking are making the agenda set by the Duma Council unalterable and making it obligatory to submit an advance application to speak on amendments and additions to the agenda. And recently a deputy suggested

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that the debate on additional proposals to the agenda begin an hour before the official start of the session. But the deputies did not agree to turn up an hour early; no volunteers were found ready to " bust a gut" until the whole program is exhausted.

So what were the extremely protracted intervals filled with?

During the morning warm-ups, the deputies speak mostly not of lawmaking problems but of political problems. The just-launched election campaign quite often converts the intervals preceding law-making work into publicity slots.

"A proportion of the deputies corps, including the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction," Viktor Mironov, one of the leaders of the Stability deputies group and deputy chairman of the Security Committee, complained, "take advantage of any opportunity to avoid doing actual work on draft laws in the Duma, leave the premises, and engage in election campaign organization at the state's expense."

The LDPR's actions have long been the talk of the town. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy indirectly confirmed the words of an opponent about the abuse of deputies' powers in the election struggle.

"On 17 August," Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said, "the election campaign will start, and we will be having vacations then. Please move these to June and July."

Owing to interfactional skirmishes, the approved order of business was not completed at nine out of the 15 sessions, and 59 (or 21.2 percent) of the 274 questions submitted to the State Duma in the course of the plenary sessions were not considered.

"...A typical scene from the beginning of a Duma session: One deputy says something, another answers, and soon the factions are up in arms against one another. Thus, LDPR member Sergey Korobov once declared that there is no end to sallies made by "Russia's Choice" against fellow deputies and the Russian Army. Meanwhile, in the course of the election campaign "Russia's Choicers" used up 27 million rubles from the Vladimir Oblast local budget, from the pockets of ordinary taxpayers. On the basis of inspection materials, criminal proceedings have been instituted.

Regional Affairs

Reportage, Commentary on Situation in Chechnya

Grachev Insists on 'Unconditional Surrender'

MM2404192795 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Oleg Vladykin: "Victory-95 Parade: Final Rehearsals Under Way"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday morning Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev conducted at Khodynskoye Pole a review of the troops who will be taking part in the military parade marking the 50th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War. This was carried out in connection with the troops' first rehearsal actually on Poklonnaya Gora, which was planned for the end of the day. Infantry and mechanized columns passed by in accordance with the full parade program. The minister commented to the participants in the rehearsal and made recommendations designed to improve their ceremonial drill and marching training.

General Grachev drew particular attention to the need for medical backup at the parade, as such an event imposes great physical and mental strain. It will be most difficult to bear for the war veterans, who will be several thousands strong on the day of the jubilee celebrations. However, it will not be easy for the younger servicemen either: Given the hot weather, it will be tough standing in the open for several hours at a stretch. The minister ordered that the food provision for participants in the parade be improved even more. The minister thanked the servicemen and veterans for the great endeavor they had shown in the period of preparation for the jubilee.

General Grachev told the journalists who had been invited to the troop review: "I am sure that the participants in the parade on 9 May will conduct themselves with decorum. They possess both the desire and the diligence necessary for this, particularly as several dress rehearsals are scheduled."

It was reported that the air section of the parade will take place immediately after the march-past by infantry columns on Poklonnaya Gora and before the mechanized column enters Kutuzovskiy Prospekt.

In conversation with representatives of the press the defense minister commented on the foreign minister's recent statement concerning the possible use of military force to protect the Russian-speaking population in neighboring countries. He remarked that he personally had always adopted a hard line on this issue. The situation is now such that Andrey Kozyrev too has decided to make a more hard-line statement.

The discussion also touched on the prospects for ending the conflict in Chechnya. What kind of dialogue with Dudayev's field commanders could there be, General Grachev remarked, if the whole leadership personnel of their formations, from Dudayev down, had been outlawed by Russian presidential edict. Talks should have been conducted earlier, and the Russian defense minister had been prepared for that. But now that only a few hundred bandits remained, there was no point in talking to them. There can only be total, unconditional surrender on their part.

"Field commander Aslan Maskhadov has contacted me several times through the commander of the North Caucasus Military District and asked for a meeting

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actually with me," the defense minister reported. "But a decision on such a meeting has to be made by the country's political leadership. I have no desire to meet Aslan Maskhadov, although it is said that he could arrange for me to have talks with Dudayev.... I ask myself the question: But what purpose would it serve? If Dudayev is still alive, he must himself honestly announce to the Chechen people that he has committed misdeeds, a crime against them. The question of pardoning Dudayev can no longer be raised now. I am prepared to meet him only if the president makes the appropriate decision. But, in my view, it is already too late now."

Six Regional Prefects Reportedly Killed

LD2504182795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1536 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ARSHTY (Chechnya) April 24, (Interfax)—According to the Chechen armed formations' headquarters six prefects in various regions appointed by the head of the Chechen government Salambek Khadzhiyev have been killed. An assassination attempt is reported to have been made against Khadzhiyev himself. However, he was not on the site of the attack.

Meanwhile, the Federal Security Service has said it has no information on that score.

According to the militants, no active clashes are taking place along the engagement line of Russian troops and the militants.

"Armed Chechen groups attack road check-points in various parts of Chechnya, including Gudermes, Grozny and Shali", Interfax was been told.

Observer Warns of Possible 'Cleansing' of Town

LD2504193295 Moscow Ekho Moskvy Informatsionnoye Agentstvo in Russian 1650 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 25 April the road leading to the village of Arshty on the territory of Ingushetia was blocked by a border checkpoint. Now this village is cut off from the Ingush republic, Viktor Lozinskiy, member of the "Memorial" human rights watch group, which is now in the North Caucasus, told the Ekho Moskvy radio station.

An American mission headed by the first secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow was going to visit this area on 24 and 25 April, he said. Let us recall that the group is looking for Fred Cuny, an American citizen who was distributing humanitarian aid among the refugees in the destroyed areas.

Lozinskiy added that an influx of refugees to Sernovodsk and its health resorts, where up to 35,000 refugees from other areas of Chechnya are staying in very difficult conditions, is causing concern.

"The removal of military posts around the town may be a sign of the so-called 'cleansing' of the area from the fighters, as has already happened in Samashki," Viktor Lozinskiy added.

'Militants,' Residents Abandon Bamut

LD2504194595 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Apr 95

[From the "Vremya" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation in Chechnya remains complex. As a rule, the federal troops are not engaged in any hostilities, but the opposing side is pursuing partisan war tactics, which, as is known, do not entail a frontline. These tactics mean night attacks and shots in the back. Gudermes, Orekhovo, and Bamut are still in turmoil. We visited the latter in person and satisfied ourselves that the settlement is completely abandoned by both the militants and local residents. It is situated in a ravine, and the tactics of Dudayev's militants are simple. They have occupied the heights and are sniping from there. There is no sense in taking Bamut or entering it. So both sides are now staying where they are.

[Begin M.K.Yegorov, commander of the Federal Forces in Chechnya, recording] The enemy opposing the groups now is not numerous, but it is represented by the most out-and-out... [pauses] In our militia parlance they are called cutthroats. It is they who remain. In principle, they smashed Bamut themselves. When our troops were entering it, everything was mined, everything was blowing up.

The situation in the area of Alleroy, in the center of the settlement, is difficult. Over the past two days, yesterday and the day before yesterday, as well as today there was heavy fighting. We suffered losses there. These are, roughly speaking, the two trouble spots.

I would like to say, to note the following positive moments and processes under way. It is the process of holding talks not with the top men, they understand us little. As to field commanders, talks with them are proceeding okay. [end recording]

Dudayev Calls For Negotiations

LD2604135295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 26 (Interfax)—Dzhokhar Dudayev has called for negotiations on a Chechen settlement.

A statement by Dudayev was circulated on Tuesday by head of the Chechen Armed Forces' General Staff Aslan Maskhadov stressing that negotiations must be held either with Dudayev or his authorized representatives.

Maskhadov cited Dudayev as saying that the Elders who contact the federal troop command "are not formally or legally authorized to hold the negotiations."

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Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told Interfax on Monday that the Chechen commanders had requested him for a meeting. In the words of Grachev, "Maskhadov has repeatedly asked for this."

Grachev thinks that such "talks can only focus on disarmament and surrender."

Two Russian Soldiers Killed in Groznyy

LD2604154395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1506 GMT 26 Apr 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, April 26 (Itar-Tass)—Two Russian soldiers were killed by booby-traps and sniper fire in Chechnya on Wednesday, a Russian Defence Ministry official said.

The official said that Russian troops did not carry out major offensive actions against illegal armed groups today and continued to reinforce their positions.

Food, Possible Epidemics Main Concerns in Groznyy

MM2104113995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 95 First Edition p 2

[Report by Andrey Shcherbakov: "Topics of Conversation in the Waiting Lines"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are major defects in the distribution of bread and food in Groznyy. I spoke with a frail old woman who had not eaten for four days. Her attempts to obtain bread at the distribution points had been fruitless: She was simply elbowed aside. It was bitter and shameful to listen to her words: "When I was sitting in the basement I thought I was going to die, just that. It would have been better if I had." In the Mir Street bazaar I was asked for help by an old man who had lost his home and all his documents in a fire. And I had occasion to hear many such complaints.

It is currently incredibly hard for old people to survive in Groznyy. The humanitarian aid handed out at distribution points attached to military commandant's offices hardly gets through to them. Incidentally, this aid is distributed by locals, which offers scope for abuses. What other explanation is there for the fact that products are appearing in the bazaars rather than getting to the particularly needy? Maybe the military and the Ministry of Emergency Situations should take food distribution under strict control and mobilize those not engaged in combat service to deliver bread and water to the elderly.

Inhabitants of the city who have lost their apartments and property wait in a thousands-strong line outside the building of the former chess club to file an application addressed to the chairman of the Government of National Revival. To date there is no precise information about how compensation will be paid. Some say they will each be paid 500,000 rubles [R] per square meter, others that they will get R400,000 per family member. This latter rumor resulted in city dwellers with relations in the countryside starting to put 15-19 people on their application forms. But what about those who don't have such relations and have a family of two or three?

I would not be wrong in saying that people are most worried by the problem of preventing epidemics. Although a special unit to rebury the remains of the dead has been set up under the mayor's office, the work is proceeding slowly because of a shortage of funds. Ample medical supplies have been brought into Groznyy through the Ministry for Emergency Situations, but the conditions in which sanitary and epidemiological supervision experts are working cannot be considered acceptable. The Republican Center [for sanitary and epidemiological supervision] has been destroyed, and its workers are operating out of a specialized anti-epidemic team from the Stravropol Anti-Plague Research Institute. The laboratory is housed in an ordinary army tent with a small stove in the middle and useless lighting and inadequate space. So why has the State Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision not provided Groznyy with at least one modern mobile laboratory?

Last summer the struggle against cholera in the republic was waged on a public basis, so to speak. Dudayev stated that cholera was a Russian biological weapon. Workers for the local sanitary and epidemiological services last received wages in January 1994. Money has started to be distributed again since December, but who is going to pay the specialists for those 10 months?

Danger of Cholera Outbreak in Dagestan

LD2004165895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1442 GMT 20 Apr 95

[By Gadzhi Shamov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Makhachkala April 20 (ITAR-TASS)—The epidemiological situation in Dagestan remains unfavourable. This is due to several factors, the main of which is extreme density of the population with the flow of refugees arriving from Chechnya.

This applies particularly to Dagestan's northern region, specifically the city of Khasavyurt, whose population doubled over the recent months. There were 208 cases of acute intenstinal infection in Dagestan in the first quarter of 1995, as compared with 34 cases in the same period last year, the centre of Dagestan's State Epidemiological Supervision reported. There was a sharp rise in the number of cases of Scabies, Dysentery and other infectious diseases. Five Cholera cases and 12 Cholera Vibrio carriers were established and registered last winter. Over 2,350 people underwent Cholera and represent hazard for those around them, according to the Information of the Centre of State Epidemiological Supervision in Russia.

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The squalor, accumulation of garbage in Khasavyurt give a special reason for concern. Not a single bath-house is operating in Khasavyurt. Many residents do not use decontaminated water. There is wide-spread unorganised trade, particularly in food products of domestic make without sanitary examination. There are plans to pitch tents for refugees on the city's outskirts, and this will complicate the epidemiological situation still more. Experts predict that there will be no less than 700 Cholera cases this summer and the number of Vibrio carriers will be ten times as large.

A centre was formed at the municipal administration to deal with the task of preventing an epidemic. It worked out a complex of hygienic and prophilactic measures. Under this plan the city was subdivided into 100 microdistricts that will be supervised by medical personnel assigned. A medical laboratory has been set up. A large number of physicians and paramedical personnel is employed in places were refugees from Chechnya settle. A first aid team has been formed.

Drinking water is chlorinated. Reservoirs are protected. If these measure are implemented and if the state allocated the required funds, a Cholera outbreak may be prevented.

Chernomyrdin Arrives For Working Visit in Chelyabinsk

LD2604081895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0659 GMT 26 Apr 95

[By Yevgeniy Tkachenko and Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chelyabinsk, 26 Apr, (ITAR-TASS)—Today, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin arrived in Chelyabinsk for a two-day working visit.

Vadim Solovev, the head of the regional administration, told ITAR-TASS that local authorities intended to discuss with the prime minister the problem of paying debts to defence industry enterprises, which comprise a significant part of the region's potential, state order for the current year and grave ecological problems. [passage omitted]

Novgorod Forced To Seek Federal Assistance

954F2149A Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 2

[Article by Tatyana Shchipanova: "The Novgorod Employment Service Has Appealed to the Government for Assistance: Although Wholesale Unemployment in the Region Is Not Expected"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Novgorod—Since the start of the year the level of unemployment in the oblast has been rising steadily and now constitutes 2.7 percent of the 400,000 plus of the able-bodied population. Novgorod Oblast appears more fortunate than neighboring Leningrad, Pskov, or Arkhangelsk Oblasts here, where percentage unemployment is 1.5 to two times higher. Nonetheless, the situation requires constant monitoring and the adoption of the necessary measures not only at the regional level—such are the conclusions of the oblast commission for averting a critical situation in the labor market that met just a few days ago. In absolute figures 10,800 unemployed have been registered in the oblast. On the books of the oblast employment center there are approximately 3,000 persons without permanent work (which constitutes 2.1 percent of the able-bodied population). The measures the oblast Employment Service is implementing are making it possible to curb the growth of unemployment. Approximately 800 million rubles [R] have been allocated from its fund since the start of the year for the preservation and creation of additional jobs. Almost 500 unemployed have acquired the opportunity to undergo retraining and, thanks to this, to find work. Some 120 persons of pre-retirement age have been registered to receive early retirement benefits from the resources of the fund. Approximately 350 inhabitants of the oblast in receipt of unemployment benefit have supplemented their family budget, earning money in public works activities.

Forecasting the upcoming situation, specialists of the employment center do not anticipate any particular "explosions" in the oblast. The level of unemployment will rise slightly—by 0.3 to 0.4 percent—but wholesale unemployment is not expected, in their opinion. Although problems that have to be tackled at the federal level are arising.

The rates of the allocation of resources for the creation of new jobs should be revised in connection with inflation and the growth of prices. This is approximately R3 million (per job), but, according to the most modest estimates, twice as much is needed. At the same time, on the other hand, the amount of unemployment benefit should not exceed the level of the area average wage, otherwise there is no incentive to look for work. And it would be expedient to begin unemployment benefit for those who have been released at their own request no sooner than three months following their release: Today there are frequent instances of people on the books at the employment center turning down work with a salary of R100,000-120,000 because they are in receipt of a benefit of R145,000. And the employment center pays for their apartment also (see SEGODNYA No. 50 of 18 March).

The commission decided to send these proposals to the Federal Employment Service and add them to the draft employment act. And, most important, more than 25 plans for the organization in the oblast of jobs for women, whose realization will require over R17 billion, were drafted with the participation of the oblast commission. A request for their investment will be sent to the Government of the Russian Federation also.

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Alignment of Tatarstan Political Forces Eyed

954F2113A Kazan IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA in Russian 19 Apr 95 pp 1-2

[Article by Damir Iskhakov, candidate of historical sciences: "Post-Election Thoughts: The 'Original Sin' of the Democrats or What Is Being Glossed Over in the Summation of the Results of the State Council Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The recent elections to the State Council of Tatarstan demonstrated once again as clearly as can be that no civil society or democracy in the republic are possible without the national component. As we all know, democrats of a Russian persuasion (henceforward, Demo-Russians) sustained a most crushing defeat at the elections. Judging by publications in the mass media, they consider the main cause of the failures the actions of the "present authorities." In actual fact, the power elite merely availed itself of the fundamental political miscalculation of the Demo-Russian opposition in Tatarstan.

Of what does its "original sin" consist? Of the fact that it clean forgot about the existence of the national component, without which the building of a civil society is inconceivable.

The basis of the position of the Demo-Russians is the opinion that the demand that special attention be paid to the problems (privileges included) of the national group necessarily implies a lack of respect for the other peoples. The supporters of this viewpoint (they exist in the West also) usually believe that special and equal rights are incompatible ab initio. But another approach is represented among intellectuals of both West and East also. It essentially amounts to the fact that not all political movements which are oriented toward national values and national communities defined with the aid of the concepts of culture or ethnicity necessarily cleave to a policy of exclusivity, intolerance, and chauvinism. In short, they believe that nationalism is a polymorphic category incorporating both variants of democracy and social tolerance and authoritarianism and imperialism. The varieties of nationalism, therefore, that are not built on the principle of exclusivity are capable of recognizing not only the values of their own but also of other national cultures.

One would have to be completely blind not to be able to see the obvious fact that such nationalist movements have something in common with civil rights activity—there is present in both cases an aspiration to expand the sphere of defense of both the individual and the group against oppression and strangulation on the part of others and also to increase the capacity of the individual for greater autonomy and self-realization.

All the previous activity of the Demo-Russians in Tatarstan had amounted to a minimization of the influence of the national (Tatar) democrats in the political life of the republic. And this endeavor of theirs coincided fully with the desires of the ruling elite. None other than I. Grachev declared immediately following the signing of the treaty between Tatarstan and Russia, a document which is extremely imperfect and contrary to the long-term interests of the republic and its people, that the political situation here "is developing in the right direction." Yet it was after the conclusion of this treaty that the nomenklatura-bureaucratic regime, which had long since consolidated its position, forced into silence for several months the last bastion of democracy in the republic—the news media.

The healthy wing of the national movement was by this time, by the common endeavors of the Demo-Russians and the authorities, in ruins. The wretched remnants of this movement (wretched primarily on account of the complete loss of any communication with the intellectuals) attempted for the final time in the fall of 1994 within the framework of the Roundtable to create a united bloc for the coming elections. The ruling elite immediately sensed the danger and put pressure on the Tatar national movement via the Tatar Social Center (this can be seen clearly in certain publications in VATANYM TATARSTAN). But the decisive role in the fact that a union of nationals and Demo-Russians did not come into being was performed, for all that, by the position of the leaders of the Equality and Legality bloc—they repelled the nationals. And the attempts of certain participants in the Roundtable to make the best of a bad job could not rectify anything, and the union came to nothing.

But in their pride the Demo-Russians forgot the simple truth that the national (Tatar) democrats were, in actual fact, the sole really democratic part of Tatar society. And local democracy was not only and not so much the fruit of Moscow's achievement in this sphere as the result of the Tatars' struggle for their national rights, including those sought in a difficult battle with their own ruling elite, which had never acted in any way consistently in defense of the rights of the Tatars. The defeat of the Tatar democrats—and this did not happen overnight and had become a reality long before the elections to the State Council—inevitably strengthened the positions of the ruling elite, which won an unprecedented (and surprisingly easy) election victory.

The Nationals and the Struggle for Democracy

Tatar national organizations and associations are intending within a few days' time to hold a conference devoted to the results of the past elections and to future prospects. I wager that the conference will discuss two main questions: the need for unification and the formulation of a common strategy and the attitude toward the pro-Russian democrats, primarily toward their idea of the closer cohesion of the opposition ranks.

The results of the State Council elections will necessarily have to be discussed in regard to the first point. No news is expected here: Those assembled will most likely cordially damn the "bad authorities," pointing to the "unrelieved violations" and so forth. The most important

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point, which it would do no harm to discuss—there has been no national movement as such for several years now, and only a few leaders of various national organizations remain—will continue to be overshadowed here.

Alas, the Tatar national movement is characterized by a pathological incapacity for two things: the discussion of intra- republic problems at the political level and the creation of a strong, civilized association of a political nature.

The point being that in Tatar society the sphere of political activity has been monopolized completely by the ruling elite (it is three-fifths composed of Tatars). At the same time, on the other hand, a social elite among the Tatars has not taken shape as yet—nor has this been possible since all the resources are with the power structures, and the personal wealth of possible national figures is minimal and does not allow of involvement in politics at the professional level. In addition, democratic culture in Tatar society (as in Russian society also, for that matter) is virtually absent. And, as the Polish scholar S. Wilkanowicz says, there is exactly as much democracy in society as there is democratic culture.

The association of national organizations is problematical also. Even if there is a miracle and the creation of a united bloc of Tatar organizations is proclaimed, the viability of such a formation is extremely debatable. Indeed, how can the supporters of "ethnic" statehood (the left wing of the national movement) and a civilized statehood—polyethnic—(the right wing) operate together? It should be borne in mind also that the question of cooperation with the Demo-Russians could be a principal point of contention for the nationals.

The left nationals (Ittifak, the All-Tatar Social Center, and others) would, most likely, readily agree to a union with the Demo- Russians under the slogan "Down with the nomenklatura bureaucracy!" Such a trend has, at least, been clearly traced since last fall and it has acquired more favorable soil since the elections. But the moderate wing of the nationals (primarily the Tatar Social Center), which is "in constructive opposition" to the authorities and is highly susceptible to the influence of the ruling elite, would not want to tie itself unduly to a consolidating opposition. At the same time, on the other hand, this part of the nationals is also finding itself pressed for time: The longer it remains in the shadow of the power structures, the sooner it will be pushed conclusively onto the sidelines of politics. It is more promising to create a broad coalition of democratic forces and to begin truly vigorous political activity as a nonruling elite (a so-called "counter-elite"). The latter, however, requires substantial resources and the enlistment of the best intellectual forces of the republic.

It would be useful for Tatar democrats to recognize that our society still consists of semi-citizens who are having a hard time imagining themselves in democratic pursuits. On the other hand, the strengthened nomenklatura elite will endeavor to ensure that the most influential political forces in the republic represent only its interests. The possible field of action for the nationals, therefore, will inevitably be very narrow, and the capacity for exerting real influence on political processes in Tatarstan, limited. Only by way of the creation of a broad democratic opposition may this historically perfectly explicable deficiency be compensated to a certain extent. But we have virtually no experience of such cooperation of different forces, and ability to overlook current disagreements in the name of strategic interests, even less.

One further point needs to be remembered: A change of political elites is always a lengthy process, particularly with us. It will take decades, most likely, for a real democratic elite to appear in Tatarstan. Meanwhile we are all condemned to negotiate a transitional period. But the shortening of the timeframe of this "transition" will depend on today's actual actions of the democrats, Tatar included.

President's Mistake

There are in certain normalities "big policy," a disregard for which signifies defeat. One such is the following: The transition to a democratic society depends not so much on the fulfillment of some conditions obligatory for the self-assertion of democracy as on the nature of the interaction of various political forces, of the authorities and the opposition included.

It would seem to be of interest from this viewpoint to take a look at the political situation that has been shaping up in Tatarstan as of last fall.

As we know, the Roundtable of political parties and movements began to take shape on the eve of the elections to the State Council. Although it did not, essentially, come into being for various reasons (both the endeavors of the authorities and the political myopia of democrats of different persuasions themselves), it contained the idea of a certain interaction with the power structures in respect to the formulation of a particular "gentleman's agreement." Although more in the course of elections thus far, the further modification of this association in the direction of its institutionalization has not been ruled out.

To our very great regret, the dialogue that had emerged in the course of the elections has been eradicated. The main role here has been performed by the bureaucratic elite, which considered the cooperation with the opposition excessive. But the unprecedented victory of the "authorities' party" (some 56.5 percent of deputies in the State Council currently—70 persons—have a direct relationship with the executive, and 13.7 percent—17 persons—with the upper economic stratum closely connected with it) has, in fact, not only positive aspects, about which the representatives of the authorities have had much to say as of late, but a whole number of negative aspects also. The deepening of the division between the opposition and the authorities with a

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strengthening of the trend toward extra-parliamentary methods of struggle (the idea of the creation of a "shadow parliament" operating in "politically autonomous fashion" and so forth) should, first and foremost, be attributed to the latter.

Meanwhile the socioeconomic situation in the republic is very far from being a happy one. An improvement is hardly to be expected any time soon, despite all the glowing promises concerning the creation of an all-powerful "progress" program, and mass actions of those unhappy with their economic situation and an increase in political tension are possible, consequently.

Whence the conclusion that the aspiration to 100 percent control of parliament on the part of the ruling political elite is a mistake fraught with many unpleasant consequences. Unless the leaders of the republic, particularly its president, recognize in the very near future their role in the consolidation of society, we shall not escape a slide toward authoritarianism and the winding down of democracy. This is all the more the case in that the structuring of a new nomenklatura on a new base has been completed in recent years. And it will necessarily have a desire to control each and everything in deference to its selfish interests.

The sole way out of the current situation is the conclusion of some agreement among the various forces in the republic. But not of the "Social Accord" type, as in Moscow, but a far more specific document establishing the "rules of the game" for all political groups for the immediate future. The obligations of the authorities should be worked out in it particularly carefully. What is most important is that it is essential that this agreement show the possible prospects for all social strata, with the obligatory achievement, what is more, of a certain improvement in the position of the main groups in the immediate future. If there is no trust (and it may be based now only on the fulfillment of a specific agreement), a further gap between the people and the authorities will grow.

The result will be a "Latin American" scenario with strong elements of the Baghdad regime (there is an abundance of the oriental—caliphate—component here, for that matter). And the prospects of such an alternative cannot be reassuring.

Tatarstan Parliament Chief on Current Tasks

954F2139A Kazan KAZANSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 4

[Interview with V. Likhachev, chairman of the Tatarstan State Council, by L. Ageyeva; place and date not given: "'A Law Is Good When It Is Executed'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **A plenary session of the State Council of the Republic of Tatarstan, the second at which Vasiliy Nikolayevich Likhachev has been chairman, begins on 26 April.**

Getting an interview with him at this time is no easy matter, but he graciously agreed to answer questions of our paper's chief editor L. Ageyeva.

[Ageyeva] You have probably already become somewhat accustomed to both your new position and your new office. How, I would like to know, do your assumptions concerning what the chairman of the State Council should do match up with what you are having to do in actual fact? Were you right in the way in which you imagined this work in the quiet of your office?

[Likhachev] I would like to say at once that a quiet office is out of the question today. My doors never close. Were I to spend 14 hours on the job, there would still be work to do.

Now about the essence of the question. The problem is that it is not enough to have one's concept of anything, including the State Council. It is essential to know how to put it into practice.

It is very important initially to organize the work of the administrative machinery and allocate duties among one's deputies. As yet I am having to deal with practically all matters in one way or another, from the motor pool through employment for the former deputies.

It is gratifying that I am perceived as being the leader of a legislative body, and people frequently do not apply to me on matters that are within the competence of the executive authorities.

Letters have been received in response to my appeal on television for a sharing of thoughts on the paths of the development of our republic. One came from oil worker Simonov. He suggests how we should reconstitute our life. Many aspects, including the news media even, interest him. He makes his proposals on the minimum wage. In his opinion, the deputies should forget that they are the representatives of a specific nationality and a specific region, working for the republic as a whole. This is a very important point.

[Ageyeva] At the first news conference, immediately following your election, you said that there would be an opposition in parliament, although many journalists believe otherwise.

Judging by the kind of questions you were asked before the election and in what way, an opposition already exists. Different approaches to the relationship of Tatarstan and the Russian Federation, say, have already emerged.

What do you see as the difficulties in relations with the deputies and in the work of the State Council as a whole?

[Likhachev] I do not want to ratchet up the atmosphere, as they say, but there will be difficulties, of course. But it is not about these that I would like to speak today.

The staffing of the standing deputy commissions has shown the quite wide spectrum of interests of the deputies. The administration chiefs wanted to be members of

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the Planning and Budget Commission, say. This is understandable: They want to monitor the process of formation of the budget. Representatives of the Tatar intelligentsia put their names down for the commission on the cultural heritage of the peoples of Tatarstan. It is gratifying that a serious economics commission, of which business representatives are members, is taking shape. The latter have already expressed a number of valuable ideas.

The deputies have received the president's budget message, and we are to conceptualize it in plenary session, adopting the republic budget for 1995. I hope that we will prepare well for this session.

[Ageyeva] Inasmuch as the first session introduced certain changes to the work of the Council, authorizing the deputies from the territorial districts to retain their principal place of employment, how will the Council work in this connection?

[Likhachev] The matters which are put to a plenary session are clearly defined in the republic's constitution. A regular session is sufficient for the solution of other questions. This is how we will work. Two session sittings per week are planned, but the deputies will work in the commissions, in the main.

[Ageyeva] How many deputies have decided to work in parliament on a professional basis? And where do they come from?

[Likhachev] Thirty-five persons have expressed such a desire. I had forecast approximately as many. Of course, in the course of work their number could change in this direction or the other.

People of Kazan constitute about 40 percent of such deputies. But, on the whole, practically all regions of the republic are represented.

I would like parliamentary hearings, which are practiced in other countries, to become part of the practice of the work of the State Council. I believe that each deputy would find a wide field of activity for himself.

Our main attention, as the State Council of a sovereign republic, should be concentrated, it seems to me, on the idea of the stabilization of the state and the development of statehood. Questions of the social protection of man and citizen should be of no less significance. The previous parliament adopted fundamental documents, and they must now be translated into the language of specific laws and decisions.

Examining the draft budget of the republic so objectively for the first time, I was persuaded once again of the validity of certain conclusions. Of course, the law must correspond to some objective requirements of life, but it (the law) should be weighed up from the financial viewpoint. After all, a law is good not when it is well written but when it is executed.

The second conclusion: Each law—on health care, capital construction, or foreign economic activity—should orient people toward the humanitarian substance. That is, there should not be a programmed conflict between the state and people.

[Ageyeva] There has been much criticism apropos the great representation in the State Council of the administration chiefs. How do you view this fact? Is it possible in this case to speak about the possibility of a separation of powers—executive and representative? Will there not be unconcealed lobbying in favor of one's own territory?

[Likhachev] I take a perfectly composed view of the existence of parliamentary lobbying. All countries have lobbying. That it needs to be put within a strict framework of the law and ethics is another matter.

The principles of elective ideology and the personnel composition of the State Council that has been formed reflect, however much some people may dislike this, the actual political and socioeconomic situation in Tatarstan. More is being spoken as yet about the multiparty system, but no serious parties have emerged, alas, and this is not the fault of specific politicians or parties.

The explanation for what is happening lies in the consciousness of the voters, who elected precisely these, not other, deputies. People are tired of mass phenomena with an underlying political motive. In addition, man is switching to another, private, mode of activity. Previously he relied on the state, today he is counting more on himself. And not because the state is refusing to help him. It is simply that neither the individual nor the state can survive otherwise today.

This state of affairs is compelling a different structuring of the work of the authorities, both executive and representative.

The fact that administration chiefs have come to be a part of the State Council should not be used as an intimidation factor. First, this is part of the experience of parliamentarianism of a number of countries, second, this is a temporary phenomenon. There can be no question of a mechanical merger in parliament of the representatives of the different branches of power. The deputies are first and foremost people who represent the interests of society and all voters.

It is important that the administration chiefs approach the work of a deputy as, if I may put it this way, individuals and with a "clean slate." They hold two mandates, as it were, and they should manage them intelligently. I regard this as a dual responsibility, and the evaluation of their activity in parliament will be twice as strict, therefore.

[Ageyeva] I certainly have to ask you about how you view the numerous charges leveled at the organizers of the elections. Do you consider these charges justified? Can parliament be trusted if the electorate has from the outset doubts about the election results?

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[Likhachev] Truly there was a great deal of talk in the course of the elections about the violations of electoral rights. On 5 April the State Duma of the Russian Federation adopted a special decree in this connection. On certain points it put me on my guard. Primarily the fact that the deputies demonstrated a manifest disrespect for the rulings of two supreme courts—of Tatarstan and Russia.

My conviction is that all controversies should be evaluated only in court or some competent body. Only in this way can a society based on the rule of law be built.

There is another aspect of this problem also. I could show you a letter of two deputies of the State Duma. Its authors, V. Plotnikov and D. Skum, were in Naberezhnyye Chelny at the time of the elections. They visited 14 polling stations and talked with people a great deal.

They spotted no serious infringements of the law. More, the deputies believe that the positive experience of Naberezhnyye Chelny and our republic could be used in other regions of the Russian Federation. Draw your own conclusions....

[Ageyeva] The decree of the State Duma poses the problem of the alignment of the Tatar Election Act with the law of the Russian Federation "On Basic Guarantees of the Election Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation." What can you say in this connection?

[Likhachev] It depends from what position it is evaluated. We must adopt harmonized laws on subjects of joint jurisdiction, of course. But if some contradiction has arisen, it should be removed on the basis of the mechanism contained in the treaty of the two republics on the delimitation of authority—by way of negotiations, that is. So all the talk about the need for one further session of the Constitutional Court of Russia on Tatarstan cannot be considered well-founded. Our republic, according to this treaty, forms its own system of power. There should be no violation of human rights here, of course—this is axiomatic.

I regard this decree and other such facts as an attempt to belittle the significance of the treaty between the republics.

I discern here attempts to play the Tatar card once again. It is astonishing that people who earlier, when this was to their advantage, were campaigning for the treaty of the two republics are now involved in this.

I am surprised that there is little forecasting in Russia of the development of this event or the other. Little thought is given to a refinement of the state arrangement of the Federation. We have experience of this arrangement: oblasts and krays and national republics. Perhaps not the world's best experience, of course, but it exists.

[Ageyeva] Many inhabitants of Tatarstan, not only Tatars, have been disturbed recently by the talk about the leveling of the components of the Russian Federation. Are there, truly, grounds for concern here or is this simply the start of the election battles?

[Likhachev] Provincization is, in my view, an artificial problem. A simple change of signboards—calling a republic, oblast, or kray a province—will not resolve a single problem.

Whoever is talking today about the leveling of components of the Federation and about the provincization of Russia is striking at President Yeltsin, which is convinced that the republics should take as much sovereignty as they want. A mechanical leveling of the components of the Federation is impossible, we need to broaden the legal status of the territories, but not by way of a limitation of the authority of the republics.

[Ageyeva] Do you not think that the activity of the power structures should be more open to the public? What are your aims as head of the State Council in this direction?

[Likhachev] If we are to abide by the canons of democracy, we need to be consistent in all things. There should be the maximum glasnost of the work of the authorities, both representative and executive. Unless we create dependable channels of communication between the deputies and the electorate, we will simply not accomplish our functions. This cannot be done without you journalists. Ideas, on the basis of which laws are subsequently adopted, are streamlined with your assistance. And people need to see this process. They must be our allies.

[Ageyeva] How do you evaluate our republic's news media? How justified is the talk to the effect that we will soon be saying goodbye to freedom of speech?

[Likhachev] On the contrary, you have every opportunity to be really free. Both the newspapers and the electronic media. This will largely depend on you.

I would like to see healthy competition between individual news media. It is good when television viewers choose between Efir and "Tatarstan." This helps both the managers and the creative staff of the editorial offices to be constantly on the lookout.

I do not wish to appear immodest and will say a few words about your newspaper by no means because this is the one to which I am giving this interview. KAZANSKIYE VEDOMOSTI attracts me from many angles. Primarily because your publications view life both from the positions of the actual individual and from the position of state thinking.

I would advise you merely to start a humor page....

[Ageyeva] There are more Tatars than Russians in the State Council. Could this somehow be reflected in the activity of the Council? How justified, in your view, are the fears of certain politicians concerning a possible exacerbation of interethnic relations in Tatarstan?

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[Likhachev] I reject the possibility of an exacerbation of interethnic relations. The experience of Chechnya and the mutual coexistence of people of different nationalities in Tatarstan have taught us a great deal. The people have seen for themselves that a bad peace is better than a good quarrel.

It is important merely that we not become confused here about when it is necessary to speak about a nation and people, and when, about an individual representative of the latter. I dislike it when, in response to some publication of one Russian politician, we start to speak badly of Russia. Speak about the specific politician.

You asked a very important question. But analyze the election results, there are districts with a Tatar population which preferred a Russian deputy and the other way about.

Each deputy should understand that he is not simply a Russian or a Tatar. He is a statesman. This does not mean that he will not urge a revival of his national culture in parliament. We will tackle such problems, if they exist, and we should not be ostrich-like, pretending not to notice them. I would like us to pay them more attention than the State Duma, say, is doing. Simultaneously we will all tackle questions that reflect the interests of the entire population of the republic.

I have been convinced of the people's wisdom in my 100th Gayazovskiy District. It has sometimes seemed to me that it is the Tatars who understand me better. I received my first congratulations on my election as chairman of the State Council from a Tatar woman. The telegram was brought directly to the presidium of the first session.

I never thought that I would obtain such support from people. Congratulations have come in from everywhere: from Russian and Tatar villages, from overseas, from leaders of various levels....

[Ageyeva] I shall take advantage of this opportunity, on behalf of KAZANSKIY VEDOMOSTI, to join in these congratulations and I hope for the continuation of our cooperation in the future.

[Likhachev] I look forward to it also.

[Ageyeva] Thank you for the interview. I wish you success in your new career.

Tatarstan Cabinet Threatens To Close Paper

954F2148A Kazan IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA in Russian 22 Apr 95 p 1

[Appeal of IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA staff under the rubric "Standing Apart": "To Our Newspaper's Readers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Dear readers! Today, at the peak of the subscription campaign for the second half of 1995, we are compelled to appeal to you with an urgent piece of information and a request for support.**

The point is that on Tuesday 18 April we learned that a plan to close IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA had been hatched in the bowels of the republic's Cabinet of Ministers, and that this decision is practically ready and may be published any day.

As we were told, the formal grounds for this decision are that it is inexpedient for the Tatarstan Government to publish two official newspapers in Russian and the shortage of funds in the budget. However, judging by the fact that the republic leadership did not deem it necessary to discuss the upcoming decision with the collective, at least on the level of the deputy prime minister supervising mass media affairs, nor did it deem it necessary to discuss alternative options for publishing IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA, which were submitted to the founders back in the middle of last year, the problem is not a duplication of effort by newspapers and not a shortage of funds, but something else.

Therefore, in order to avoid misinterpretation and in order not to put into an ambiguous position either ourselves, the journalistic collective, or our current and potential readers, we believe it imperative to report on this situation and publicly, through the newspaper, to repeat our arguments in the hope that the arguments of reason and logic will still have an effect on Tatarstan's leadership.

Thus, we emphasize that we completely agree with the thesis that it is necessary to put an end to publishing absolutely identical official releases in several newspapers; there should be only one official organ, and we acknowledge that this status undoubtedly should be conferred on RESPUBLIKA TATARSTAN (formerly SOVETSKAYA TATARIYA) with its, as they say, glorious 70-plus-year history.

We also completely agree that state expenditures need to be cut by all available means (for reference: In 1994 IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA received from the budget in the form of a subsidy about 180 million rubles [R]—two to three times less than a number of the republic's other publications—and earned more than R190 million on its own).

As already mentioned, as early as last year, having discussed these issues at the general meeting of the labor collective, we asked our founders to permit IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA to convert, perhaps on an experimental basis, into a joint-stock company, thus removing the problem of budget infusions. We proposed several options, ranging from the organs of state authority retaining the controlling share of stock and the newspaper retaining the status of an official mouthpiece, to removing the Republic of Tatarstan Supreme Council and Cabinet of Ministers as IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA founders and moving the publication in the

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category of, for instance, a weekly for business people or, more broadly, a publication for the intelligentsia.

Naturally, in doing this the IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA collective acted upon the premise that the republic leadership sees us not as enemies of the people but as people who, from the very first days of regular publication of our newspaper, tried, to the extent of our knowledge, skills, and abilities, to help strengthen peace and accord in multi-ethnic Tatarstan, explain the substance of the republic leadership's policy, placing particular emphasis on expressing the interests and viewpoint of the intelligentsia—the part of society that is most dynamic and important in the sense of influencing mass attitudes.

Alas, we got no reaction to our proposals, as if they had never existed. Nevertheless, we continue to this day to hope for common sense on the part of the authorities, and consider the idea of merging the IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA and RESPUBLIKA TATARSTAN newspapers on the basis of the latter a misunderstanding stemming from incorrect or distorted information presented to the Republic of Tatarstan president and prime minister by their services.

And really, what does the word "merge" mean in this context? We are talking about different publications, each with its own image, its own readership, its own creative—let us emphasize this word—collective... This would be tantamount to merging, for instance, the Tatar Kamalov and Tinchurin theaters, on the grounds that one has a large audience and the other does not, so let us save money on it.

Of course, this reasoning is effective only when someone wants to hear it. One can agree to the "civilized divorce" option and let the publication continue, albeit perhaps with a different status and under a different name, by giving it the opportunity to continue to lease part of the office space it currently occupies and the equipment. Or one can cancel all contracts, throw it out on the street, pass the proposed ideas for implementation to someone else who is closer, and live on. Everything is possible in our land. But should it be done? In the final analysis, who will benefit? To our knowledge, nobody has discussed with the RESPUBLIKA TATARSTAN collective the idea of "reinforcing" it by bringing in some IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA staff, either. How will the colleagues react?

To sum up, we appeal to our readers: It is you who are to decide whether there should be a newspaper such as IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA in the republic and, generally, publications natural for a democratic society. Your voice in support of the newspaper—or your silence; your rubles for subscription, despite the fact that somebody somewhere has already taken pains to keep the information of this subscription to a minimum and retail sales have been "squelched" by two-thirds since January—or your reluctance, quite understandable from a human standpoint, to spend money when there is often not enough of it to buy the basic necessities: All this will determine the future of IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA.

For our part, we are full of resolve and desire to continue publishing the newspaper—with the current founders or without them. If we find many friends, IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA will continue publication, albeit perhaps under a different name.

This material was written for publication on the basis of the proceedings of the general meeting of the IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA editorial staff.

19 April 1995

Samara Administration, Duma Debate Budget

954F2111A Samara SAMARSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 95 pp 1-2

[Article by Nina Alpatova: "What Sort of Budget Will the Oblast Have?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The administration of the oblast is proposing a budget deficit of 20 percent. The provincial Duma, 10 percent. Search for a compromise is under way.**

Presenting the draft oblast and consolidated budget for 1995 in the Duma, Gabibula Khasayev joked: The Orient is a subtle matter, our budget is even subtler. He knew whereof he spoke. It was absurd to think that the Duma members would easily discuss and adopt so vital a document on the go. Especially since the deputies' prelude (Mr. Krishtal) sounded quite austere: We will vote a budget to the exact extent necessary, not confining ourselves to a temporal framework. A decision on a two-stage adoption of the law on the budget, in no fewer than two readings, that is, had been prepared in advance. The deputies had decided on this before granting G. Khasayev, deputy chief of the oblast administration, the floor.

One-Fifth of the Budget—Our Income Tax

However meanly or exaltedly the individual taxpayer of Samara Oblast lived in the past year, his heart cannot fail to exult: The budget plan in terms of revenue in 1994 was fulfilled 109.5 percent. Only Chapayevsk and Oktyabrsk (of the cities) were outsiders. Six rural districts did not "jump" as high as 100 percent. On the other hand, as the No. 1 economist of the oblast believes, this is merely an illusion of prosperity. Particularly if we take a sober look at the present year. We are to collect 3.5 trillion rubles [R] in taxes (the revenue side of the oblast budget). Their proportion is impressive: 36.8 percent, profits tax, 13.8 percent, value-added tax, 7 percent, excise. And just a little less—21 percent—personal income tax. So one-fifth of the general prosperity is borne by each working person. We are supporting, however, not only near ones and dear ones but some others besides because, of the funds collected, only 55.3 percent remains in the oblast. The remaining amount, as we said earlier, goes upstairs. And we, of course, do not agree.

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The administration is insisting: 70 percent should remain here in the oblast. How strong this insistence is we will learn from the results of the negotiations with the Government of the Russian Federation. The administration's position is clear—leave the oblast 100 percent of the excise from the manufacture of liquor (now 50 percent); 50 percent from the sale of oil and gas (we have a privilege as yet, but its removal is being threatened constantly); 50 percent from the production of gasoline (we have nothing at this time), and 10 percent from motor vehicle manufacturing (we are running on "empty" currently).

Where will our collected funds go this year?

The breakdown is as follows: One-third will be channeled into the upkeep of the social and cultural sphere, 14.7 percent into capital investments, 28 percent into the national economy, and 1.9 percent into the organization of power (instead of 3 percent last year).

An improvement in the budget climate, according to G. Khasayev, is possible merely with the use of nontraditional sources of the receipt of funds. They exist. Off-budget funds, for example, which even with their spare resources are not at this time participating in the formation of the oblast budget. But if only there were the funds! The Volga Auto Works' share of oblast budget revenue is 20 percent. Will the works be able to shoulder this? You never can tell, so the doubts of the authors of the draft are understandable.

There is a steady shortfall of 30 percent on the revenue side of the oblast budget, according to G. Khasayev. Together with the Bankruptcy Office, the administration intends to tighten tax collection. Not the least part should be played by a system of mutual settlements between enterprises and the treasury (following the example of St. Petersburg, to which G. Khasayev has looked).

What Kind of 'Conversion,' Founder?

The deputies had already worked on the document. In the Budget, Finances, and Taxes Committee (and almost all members of the Duma were members of this, we would recall). Nikolay Utkin, chairman of the committee, questioned in his speech practically all the oblast programs. He declared that the majority of them had no dispassionate expert evaluations and that under the conditions of the proposed budget deficit of 20 percent he did not see the need to subsidize them. Nikolay Dmitriyevich proposed halving the R6.2 billion for the Youth Policy program and making it commensurable with the territories and reducing by 50 percent (on the basis of the requested R10.8 billion) the program for support of the family and mother and child. The same fate for the Conversion Fund (it is planned at R20 billion). As N. Utkin explained, the fund has shown that it is unfounded. The Duma members could sharply cut the oblast small business program, the environmental program, and the program in honor of the Victory Anniversary (not only the oblast center but the other cities and villages also should celebrate—such is their verdict). There was absolutely no support for the Future Prospects and leasing programs. It was proposed canceling these altogether. The Samaraagrolizing was hit particularly hard. Of the R1 billion for the support of the news media, the deputies would like to retain just over R300 million (30 percent).

The point of departure of the proposals of the chairman of the Duma committee was, probably, clear to all: There should be no big ideas as regards what is today beyond our means. A reduction in the budget deficit is the job of a Duma protecting the electorate against expansive gestures. This is what the representative authority believes. And many of its bigshots (Mr. Sharapov, for example) are for the "shakeout" and "desiccation" of the document by the efforts of the conciliation commission. Because each has his own financial pain: The "duet" of Doctors Sharapov and Rentz was devoted to the troubles of health care, and the Togliatti speaker Drobotov made it altogether understood that the city of the Volga Auto Works and chemical industry would, as a last resort, seek observance of the allocation rates via the court of arbitration.

Defense of the positions of the executive was undertaken by its leaders in the shape of Yu. Logoydo and A. Zhabin. The high authoritative parties will now seek compromise, working shoulder to shoulder in the conciliation commission.

The results of its work will be known within a week, and the Duma will discuss the provisions of the budget in its second reading.

Samara Oblast Duma Approves 1995 Budget

954F2111A Samara SAMARSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Mar 95 p 2

[Article by Nina Alpatova: "In Life There Is Always Room for Expenditure. But Well-Considered and Substantiated: The Provincial Duma Has Voted the Oblast Budget for 1995"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Special Attention to Credit and Support for the News Media

Following the discussion of the draft budget in its first reading (SAMARSKIYE IZVESTIYA of 24 March), the deputies and representatives of the administration spent several tense days smoothing out the contentious items together. The members of the Duma adopted immediately and with much good will the revenue side of the budget consisting mainly of various taxes, income tax included. Nor did the global budget expenditure—on the maintenance of the social and cultural sphere, capital investments, the development of the national economy, and so forth—evoke any objections. The Duma Budget

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Committee had a critical and cautious view of the specialized programs proposed by the oblast administration.

And now a week later, in the presence of a large number of interested leaders of various kinds of oblast departments, Nikolay Utkin, chairman of the Duma Committee for the Budget, Finances, and Taxes, has rendered the verdict of the conciliation commission. The deputies had either to accept it or reject it.

Having studied for the umpteenth time all 19 oblast programs, the members of the conciliation commission, on the whole, gave the go-ahead for the existence of each. The amounts requested by the administration were approved in respect to practically all of them.

When Deputy Utkin presented to his colleagues the commission's opinion on each of the 19 programs that had undergone analysis and expert appraisal, some of the specialists present (let's call them analysts) were in a hurry to conclude that the deputies had been unable to counterpose to the professional economists a sufficiently convincing alternative. If some people had worked on the draft for several months, checking each figure, it is hardly possible to have proposed something more reasonable, if proceeding from analysis, not emotions, in a week. But Deputy Utkin, the head of the administration of Togliatti, who has a sound grasp of the intricacies of fiscal policy, fundamentally disagrees with such assumptions. Having finished speaking, Nikolay Dmitriyevich observed with satisfaction during a break of the high assembly, with a glass of kefir in hand, that the adoption of the controversial items in the conciliation commission's version seemed to him a considerable success. To what did Mr. Utkin refer? Although it retains the amount requested earlier, practically each program has been set a number of very serious conditions. All 100 percent of the planned amount has been approved for the support of small business, for example, but with a precise gradation: R4.4 billion from current resources and R2.5 billion from repayable credit. The arguments surrounding the leasing program also concluded with account having been taken of an amendment of the deputies: Of the R20 billion, half is allocated for the financing of the economically "weakest" spheres—education and medicine. The rate of budget subtractions for one of the few "donors" of the oblast budget—Togliatti—was raised to 22 percent. The amount allocated for interment was planned at up to five times the minimum wage. Some R15 billion were reserved for the fitting out of the mission of Samara Oblast in Moscow. The deputies agreed also with the need for the allocation of funds for the maintenance in Kislovodsk of the Kazachiy Korpus Sanatorium, where Samara people may receive treatment. So all 19 disputed points of the budget passed the "test." But four items required a separate discussion at the session.

Deputy Aleksandr Ivanov, member of the conciliation commission, proposed the special stipulation of the allocation of funds for long-term investments and the support of the news media. Aleksandr Nikolayevich's position was supported by almost all the Duma members present. And they decided to approve R40 billion for long-term investments, but following approval of a program of the allocation of credit from the budget. Some R1.5 billion could this year be received by local news media also, once again after the approval of a statute on support for the media.

The debate on the allocation of funds for the building of the oblast oncology center and the reconstruction of the Duma building (the former construction technical school) was, as always, tumultuous. The debate was initiated by Deputy A. Ivanov also. Aleksandr Nikolayevich proposed that expenditure on the renovation and construction of these two buildings not be included until planning and estimates documents had been presented. Aleksandr Latkin, head of the Department of Construction of the oblast administration and a frequent guest of the Duma, told the deputies yet again that in other countries the planning and construction of facilities are undertaken in parallel and that this makes for the optimum timeframe of the work. The progressive techniques of the erection of the oncology center, according to Mr. Latkin, appear very compelling: Substructure and utility communications construction at the facility will begin on 15 May together with the design work. The completion of the "paper" part, that is, the design, is scheduled for 20 August. This flexibility will make it possible to erect the pride and joy not only of Samara in just 36 months. The traditional method would drag out the construction project for four years.

The brief observation of Deputy V. Tarachev concerning the possibility in July, when examining the revised budget, of checking the calculations and sums of the Construction Department was the final point of the latest (last?) discussion of the "favorite" Duma issue. Some R40 billion have now been released for the construction of the oncology center. After certain discussion, the deputies allocated R25 billion for the reconstruction of the Duma building.

The final vote demonstrated the Duma members' aspiration to introduce economic clarity into our life in the form of a fundamental document—the budget. It was adopted by an absolute majority of the deputies: We have "squeezed" it out, Leon Kovalskiy, the head of the oblast representative authority, permitted himself a sigh of relief. Will we taxpayers breathe a sigh of relief also?...

Credit—Tomorrow, Taxes—Today

The approval of the oblast budget did not allow the members of the Duma to let down, however. And they had sufficient energy for the consideration of several important documents further. Work was begun on a draft law of Samara Oblast on the fundamentals of the budget arrangement and the budget process. It was presented by G. Khasayev and V. Tarachev.

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The urgency of such a matter as the allocation of credit from the oblast budget requires no comment. Especially since R3.5 billion borrowed last year from the oblast treasury, that is, from all of us, was simply not repaid on time, nor was the 70 percent rate recommended by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation always observed either. Both credit at 100 percent and interest-free credit were granted. Deputy V. Tarachev, who has made a study of this matter, proposed that the lending rate be reduced to 30 percent.

While having supported the proposed document, Konstantin Titov, head of the administration of the oblast, meanwhile expressed three serious considerations: All credit should pass through the banks, its compulsory insurance, and the discount rate, in his opinion, should not, for all that, fall below 0.5 percent of the Central Bank rate (that is, 50 percent) [sentence as published].

Further work on this document envisages the approval by the provincial Duma of the list of commercial banks operating on behalf of the administration, so-called authorized banks.

A perpetual Duma topic is a change in the rate of tax paid to the territorial highway fund. The Construction Department proposed that the former rate of 1.2 percent be raised to 1.6 percent of the enterprises' or organizations' working assets. "Grudgingly, after a long struggle" (Deputy G. Zvyagin), the deputies settled on a rate of 1.45 percent. War veteran transport owners and kolkhozes are exempt from payment. A special approach to publicly funded organizations was adopted.

So in having adopted the oblast budget the provincial Duma has given the "go-ahead" for the authorities of the cities and rayons of the oblast to put their resources in order. The budget "train" is on its way....

Volkov Elected Leader of Udmurtia

LD1904215295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1430 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alfred Artamonov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Izhevsk, 19 Apr—Aleksandr Volkov was elected today the head of Udmurtia. The organizational session of the recently created State Council has been discussing this issue for two days.

The secret voting last Tuesday [11 April] did not yield any results. The Chairman of the republican Council of Ministers Aleksandr Volkov would have won as a leader of a new representative, legislative and control authority in the republic, but he was short by one vote, and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet Valentin Tubylov—would have needed five votes. Deputies proposed five candidates today and two of them withdrawn their candidatures themselves. Volkov beat Tubylov by thirteen votes.

The 43-year-old new republican leader is an engineer-constructor. For the past two years he was at the head of the republican Council of Ministers.

Center Suspends Work of Sverdlovsk Electoral Commission

LD1804205895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yekaterinburg, April 18 (Interfax- Eurasia)—The regional election commission which was to organize the elections of the Sverdlovsk regional governor and local self-government has been suspended, the press service of the regional administration announced Tuesday.

The commission started last week preparations for elections of a governor that were scheduled by the regional Duma for June 18. Duma Chairman Eduard Rossel is the main contender in and supporter of the elections. He was removed from governorship of the region because of his activities aimed at the setting up of the so-called Urals Republic.

The press service reported that Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Central Election Commission, sent a letter to the regional administration chief and election commission explaining that the existing regional election commission has no power to organize or run elections of the governor or the local self-government.

For this reason, the report says, there is no question of electing the local self-government or governor of the Sverdlovsk Region on the day specified by the regional Duma.

Usinsk Oil Pipeline Spill Reported

MM1904111295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 5

[Report by Marina Ryklina, Ministry for Emergency Situations Press Service: "Usinsk Heading for Accident Record"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Another accident—involving pollution of the environment—has occurred on the oil pipeline 130 km north of the city of Usinsk. The incident occurred on the 74.5-km stretch of the oil pipeline in the region of the Syatteyvis stream. Oil has spilled over 2,300 sq m of soil. The spillage area has been dammed up and oil discharge into the stream prevented. However, according to specialists' forecasts, some polluted meltwater could nevertheless enter the ocean immediately after the snows thaw.

The ill-starred oil pipeline belongs to the Arkhangelskneftegaz Oil-Extraction Administration.

Maritime Governor Against Russian-Chinese Border Deal

LD1904192295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1810 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By Vladimir Konoplitskiy]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok, April 19 (ITAR-TASS)—Maritime Territory Governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko blasted a border agreement between Russia and China.

Speaking at a news conference for Russian and foreign journalists in Vladivostok on Wednesday, Nazdratenko said that "instead of admitting the diplomats' mistakes in the Russian-Chinese agreement and taking all measures to make sure that its implementation does not damage Russia's interests, the governor who dared to stood up for the national interests has been accused of undermining good-neighbourly relations between the two countries."

On his disagreements with First Vice-Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays, Nazdratenko said they are caused by different views of privatisation in Russia. "I am against the privatisation that allows foreigners to buy our enterprises practically for nothing without investing a cent in our economy," he said.

Commenting on sharp media reports concerning his trip to London to attend a session of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) which coincided with the apex of local coal miners' strike, Nazdratenko said that prior to his trip he had arranged with the Ministry of Fuel and Energy and the concern Rosugol to provide 50 billion roubles to pay the coal miners. The money has already arrived in the region, he told journalists.

"The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the leading companies in the Maritime Territory are developing serious business relations. In particular, the EBRD has contributed 32 million U.S. dollars to fund the development of the Far Eastern and Maritime shipping lines, and included Vladivostok, along with Moscow, St. Petersburg and Nizhnyy Novgorod, in the list of four Russian cities where it will open its offices," he said.

He pointed out that his refusal to go to the session and give a speech there would hardly have been understood by the business world.

Maritime Kray Governor Worried About Arsenal Fires

OW1904121695 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 0525 GMT 5 Apr 95

[From the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the evening of 31 March, a fire broke out in the arsenal of one of the Far East Military District units in Pogranichnyy Rayon, Maritime Kray. [video shows distant scene of nighttime fire, explosions] According to the command of the Fifth Army, which owns the arsenal, forest fires caused the blaze. The flames crossed into the arms dump where shells, antitank mines, and rocket charges were stored in more than 100 railroad wagons. Some of the munitions were supposed to be salvaged but this has not been done. Eighty-six railroad wagons of munitions blew up. The debris covered a radius of more than 10 kilometers. Most of the unexploded shells flew into the tayga and local fields, however two fell on a street in the rayon center. Fortunately, nobody was hurt. Damage was limited to hundreds of broken windows in the houses of people living in neighboring villages. However, there is an unseen danger—an enormous territory has essentially been mined. [video shows fire trucks, troops combing embankment along a road, carrying large artillery shells]

Ordnance disposal troops are clearing the area, people who were evacuated from their homes are returning, and traffic on local roads has been restored. Local authorities have begun repair and reconstruction work; however, nobody in Maritime Kray can be confident that there will not be explosions somewhere else tomorrow. [video cuts to show Maritime Kray Governor Ye. Nazdratenko talking to camera]

[Begin Nazdratenko recording] There was a time when every military report listed Maritime Kray as the region with the highest concentration of armed forces anywhere on planet Earth, I repeat on planet Earth. So obviously, we understand that where there are armed forces there are arsenals, too. Now this arsenal exploded, yet 6 km in that direction is another arsenal with [words indistinct], behind this hill is another arsenal, and so on throughout Maritime Kray. So we will be removing and destroying [munitions] for a very long time yet. Succumbing to some modern idea of a rapid decrease in armed forces, the army was cut back many times over. However, as a minimum, reductions should have begun with munitions. The army has been decreased, so who are the munitions for? They have been left to us! [end recording]

The Maritime Kray governor thinks that the main reason for the latest emergency is the catastrophic fall in discipline both in the army and at the state level. The government is not providing the necessary level of financing for the Armed Forces and there is no logical program for reducing the army and salvaging unneeded arms. [video shows poor quality aerial pictures of the explosion site, army and civilian leaders viewing scene from helicopter] The result—new explosions in peacetime. This was the third serious incident in Maritime Kray military storage dumps: May 1992—Vladivostok; May 1994—Novonezhino; and March 1995—Pogranichnyy Rayon. Who is next?

Economic Issues

Grain Purchases Abroad 'Not on Agenda' in 1995

MM2604104895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 95 First Edition p 1

[Article by Aleksandr Gavrilyuk: "You Do Not Get Rich by Buying Grain at World Prices and Selling Your Own Grain at Half Price"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] This is the fourth successive year that the grain harvest in Russia is down. The reasons are well known: It is primarily because the area sown has been reduced. For example, in previous years 20-22 million hectares of winter crops were sown. This year the amount sown is scarcely more than 14 million hectares and even then it was not carried out within the optimum agrotechnical deadline, consequently part of the winter crops must be resown. Per capita grain production will fall even further—we have already fallen behind Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus in that regard. Last year this figure was 548 kg. To illustrate that point I only need to say that in 1991 the average Russian consumption was 719 kg of grain per capita.

Nevertheless, the question of major foreign grain purchases is not on the agenda—at any rate, that is what Leonid Cheshinskiy, president of the federal contract corporation Roskhlebprodukt, claims. It would be logical to suppose that in such a situation Russia's producers will supply the country with their own grain. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

Leonid Cheshinskiy believes that we do not have enough grain of our own, nor will we for a long time to come. The only grain surplus to be seen is in forage production and then only because the herd has been reduced by more than half. As for wheat for human consumption, his forecast is that the harvest will not exceed 30 million tonnes. Incidentally, in the past we never produced less than 43 million tonnes, around 8 million tonnes are needed for seed stock alone, and another 20-22 million tonnes are needed for flour production because we are consuming just as much flour as in previous years.

But both last year and this year Russia has exported food wheat. The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations alone registered 2,300,000 tonnes of wheat exports, mainly to CIS countries. According to certain expert assessments this figure could confidently be multiplied by a factor of three. Whole trainloads of grain and flour have been sent to Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. And at an average price of $50 a tonne whereas the average world price excluding delivery is $120. If you assume that Russia will nevertheless have to buy grain abroad anyway this will have to be at a realistic world price. But the preconditions for that are established right now in the sowing period.

Nevertheless, no matter how the grain harvest shapes up this year there is every justification for the assertion that there will be no large-scale purchases of grain abroad. Even if only because the domestic price for grain is approaching the world price. It is simply a question of finance.

Beginning this year there has been a fundamental change in the situation in the formation of the federal reserve fund. In terms of form, nothing has changed: The Roskhlebprodukt corporation continues to meet the needs of major cities, the Army, the Interior Ministry, and the northern regions. What has changed is the content. Starting this year the newly created Federal Food Corporation will be the state client. Henceforth Roskhlebprodukt's role is to act as the agent for the fulfillment of the federal contract. What volume is involved? The federal fund's grain requirements have not been identified yet, that will be done later.

In short, the things that have long been discussed within the government—the commercialization and liberalization of the grain market—have come about and Roskhlebprodukt has been transformed from a monopolist into admittedly the main partner among a host of commercial structures trading in grain, but neverthless on an equal footing with these. Admittedly, this happened because of the birth of a new "monster"—the Federal Food Corporation—but that is a topic for a different discussion. The only question is how this is going to work on a commercial basis in the present financial situation. Leonid Cheshinskiy claims that this is impossible. The high bank interest rate means that contracts are worthless. He believes that when loans were being issued a large number of criminal structures involved in the grain trade came into being offering non-existent grain at unrealistic prices. The result is—you end up without money or grain. Furthermore, this problem is already affecting the regions where similar structures are emerging mainly because regional funds are now being formed by the administrations independently at local level. But the main role is played by oblast grain associations which have broken away from Roskhlebprodukt and are acting as the peasants' clients.

The picture developing in the country's grain market will not be complete if we neglect to mention the recently created Russian Grain Union. It has already had a fairly perceptible impact. Let us recall for example the situation with purchase prices for last year's grain harvest. Traders did not just block the decision of the zonal conferences held by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food which set a grain price of 220,000 rubles [R] a tonne, they simply did not react to it at all. As a result peasants did not receive more than R150,000 a tonne.

World Bank Extends Four New Loans to Russia

LD2604082395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0555 GMT 26 Apr 95

[By Andrey Loshchilin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 26 (ITAR-TASS)—First Vice-Premier of the Russian Government Anatoliy Chubays and Vice-President of the World Bank Wilfried Talwitz on Tuesday signed an agreement on four new World Bank loans to Russia, totalling 555.8 million dollars.

The biggest loan of 400 million dollars is intended to help form private real estate markets and reform the housing sector in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Tver, Barnaul, Novgorod and Nizhnyy Novgorod.

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The second loan of 99 million dollars will be directly used to finance the clean-up operations and the repair of the Haryago- Usinsk oil pipeline in the Komi republic.

In addition, the World Bank provides 40 million dollars to train specialists in the field of management, small businesses and finance.

The fourth loan of 16.8 million dollars is earmarked to meet the Russian Government's critical need to improve the functioning of the country's taxation system. The last project will be tested in the Nizhnyy Novgorod and Volgograd regions before it is applied in other regions of the country.

Yeltsin Signs Laws Amending Tax Rules

LD2504152995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1139 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—The press service of the Russian president reported that Boris Yeltsin signed on Tuesday the federal law "On Amendments and Supplements to the Russian Law 'On the Tax on the Property of Enterprises'", the document that was passed by the State Duma on March 22 and endorsed by the Federation Council on April 11, 1995.

On the same day the Russian president signed two federal laws passed by the State Duma on April 7 and endorsed by the Federation Council on April 13: "On Amendments and Supplements to the Russian Law 'On the Tax on the Profit of Entrerprises and Organisations'" and "On Amendments and Supplements to the Russian Law 'On Value-Added Tax'".

Economy Minister on Prospects for Inflation

LD2404163195 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Apr 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of Economics Yevgeniy Yasin has told an RIA news agency correspondent that he hopes for a further reduction in inflation. The minister noted that the government is very closely following the progress of inflation. Yevgeniy Yasin is convinced that a tough monetary policy will sooner or later yield positive results. At present, the minister is concerned about a slight instability on the currency market. However, the situation should improve here as well. The minister noted that since January the ruble has been falling at a slower pace.

Duma Limits Government's Privatization Powers

MK2204105095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 22 Apr 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Natalya Samoylova under the "Duma on State Shares' Sale" rubric: "Deputy To Sell State Property on Their Own"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic contradictions between the parliament and government, which appeared to have been smoothed over during the drafting and passage of the budget, are about to flare up with a new intensity. The deputies have once again questioned the government's ability profitably to dispose of state-owned shares of privatized enterprises and decided to get down to this uneasy business on their own. Yesterday, the State Duma approved in first reading a draft law effectively banning the government from dealing with shares of privatized enterprises on its own—decisions on transactions with such shares are to be approved by parliament.

Recently the parliament and the government have displayed the ability to reach compromises on economic policy. The reason for that is evident: Up to now the authorities have been for the most part preoccupied with the budget and just had to demonstrate accord so as not to scare the IMF away too early and to obtain the release of budget loans from it. Now that the budget is passed, it has turned out that not everything is that easy.

One of the key problems is realization of the budget plans to generate 9.1 trillion rubles [R] by selling federally owned blocks of shares in privatized enterprises. The government is currently in dire straits: So huge revenues were provided for in the budget mostly in order to render its deficit more acceptable in the eyes of international finance organizations. In reality, however, it will not be easy to reach these targets, given a shortage of private investment resources. To all appearances, the government will have to resort to unconventional maneuvers—such as the borrowing of money from commercial banks in return for collateral in the form of state-owned blocks of shares in privatized enterprises. But precisely at this moment of government travails the deputies recalled that they have in fact always had doubts about the government's privatization plans. The most energetic critic was Sergey Burkov, chairman of the Property, Privatization, and Economic Activity Committee, who criticized the State Property Committee [SPC] back during the drafting of the budget; he said that attempts to realize the budget plans at all costs would result in the sale of state-owned stakes in strategically important enterprises for a song.

Moreover, precisely at this juncture Burkov and other deputies remembered all their complaints about the SPC's privatization policy, such as the disruption of single technological cycles by converting enterprises (such as the Kaliningrad-based "Kvarts" plant, cited as an example) into joint-stock companies or the privatization of large enterprises by decisions of local property committees, a procedure that requires a federal government decision. A scandal over the creation of the Public Russian Television (ORT) closed joint-stock company, whose authorized capitalization included the whole of the "Ostankino" state television and radio company, also added fuel to the fire.

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As a result, Burkov drew up and submitted to the State Duma for consideration an extremely radical draft law "On the Procedure for Disposing of Shares (Blocks of Shares) Reserved for Federal Ownership and Contributing Federally Owned Facilities as Payment to the Authorized Capitalization of Companies and Partnerships." The crux of the draft is very simple: The government should report to the Federal Assembly on all matters concerning transactions involving federal property. Decisions related to the sale of state-owned blocks of shares in all industries of at least any importance must be approved by parliament. Government plans to sell state-owned stakes in specific enterprises must be submitted to the Federal Assembly concurrently together with the future budget. A similar mechanism was proposed for contributing federally owned facilities to the authorized capitalization of companies and partnerships.

This draft is, of course, far from being unexceptionable. The government, in particular, may cite the fact that the draft runs counter to the provisions of the Russian Federation Constitution delimiting the authority of the branches of power—as a matter of fact, this very argument is being energetically used by the government in its polemics over the ORT bill. In the government's view, it would be unconstitutional to try to call into question the government's legitimate right (and duty) to dispose of state property.

So far, however, the government (particularly, the SPC) has embarked on a more practicable and time-tested path. The SPC sponsored the drafting of an alternative bill "On the Procedure for Selling Shares (Blocks of Shares) Earlier Reserved for Federal Ownership and Contributing Federally Owned Facilities as Payment to the Authorized Capitalization of Joint-Stock Companies." Technically, the draft was passed to the State Duma by Grigoriy Tomchin and Vladimir Golovlev, members of the committee headed by the same Burkov, not by the SPC. Under the draft, the parliament may only be given a token right of control over the sale of the blocks of shares, and even that in a limited number of industries. On the whole, decisionmaking on specific cases will still rest with the government. Notably, the draft refers only to the sale of shares, while all other forms of disposing of them are left at the government's discretion, which would enable it, for instance, freely to realize a project of turning the shares over to commercial banks under a trust contract in return for bank loans.

A clash between the rival bills at yesterday's meeting was brief and dramatic. After the drafters presented their bills to the deputies, the SPC suddenly made a tactical mistake. SPC Deputy Chairman Alfred Kokh took the floor and straightforwardly gave his backing to the Tomchin-Golovlev draft. After that, most deputies immediately voted for the Burkov draft.

Text of Decree on Securities Market Published

MM2504134895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Apr 95 First Edition p 3

["Russian Federation Government Decree No. 336 on Measures To Develop the Securities Market in the Russian Federation," signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin and dated Moscow, 15 April 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the aim of further developing economic reforms the Russian Federation Government decrees:

1. That the task of protecting the rights of investors and other persons carrying out securities transactions, and also that of protecting the property rights of citizens and juristic persons is to be considered the most important condition for developing the securities market.

Officials of the federal executive organs and the executive organs of the Russian Federation components who represent the state in joint-stock companies set up in the process of privatization are to monitor the promptness with which these joint-stock companies present reports on the results of their business financial activity, their conformity to the schedule for holding annual meetings, and their fulfillment of legislative requirements on the procedure for holding meetings of shareholders and elections of general directors and members of councils of directors of their joint-stock companies.

Any action (or inaction) directed at discriminating against Russian or foreign investors is to be deemed unacceptable.

2. The development of the securities market infrastructure is to be considered the basic task in ensuring the necessary conditions for attracting investments in the Russian Federation economy and the noninflationary financing of the federal budget deficit.

In carrying out work to develop the infrastructure of the securities market the Russian Federation Government Federal Commission for Securities and the Stock Market (hereafter called the Federal Commission) is to ensure above all:

the elaboration and ratification of standards and rules regulating the activity of issuers [emitenty] of securities and professional participants in the securities market;

the creation and development of specialized organizations for ensuring the functioning of the securities market, in particular, that of registrar [raschetno-depozitarnyye] organizations, and also various trade systems (both exchange-based and nonexchange-based) and a system for the safekeeping of certificates [systema khraneniya] and the provision of settlement and clearing services to participants in the securities markets;

the development and improvement of the system of securities transactions.

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3. The federal executive organs are not to consider questions of granting state financial support (including the granting of various privileges) or foreign credits and investments to joint-stock companies (partnerships) which infringe Russian Federation legislation and the normative-legal acts of ministries and departments in the sphere of:

keeping registers of shareholders and holding shareholder meetings and elections of boards of directors;

producing accounts and other reports on the results of their business financial activity.

The federal executive organs, the executive organs of the Russian Federation components, and local self-government bodies are to ensure the prompt provision of information on the aforementioned infringements to the appropriate ministries and departments.

4. The federal executive organs and the executive organs of the Russian Federation components with the participation of the Federal Commission are to prepare and hold by 1 September 1995 sectoral (intersectoral) and regional (interregional) conferences on the question of issuing shares in joint-stock companies while attracting issuers and professional participants in the securities market.

5. The Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property and the committees for managing state property of the Russian Federation components, with the participation of the Russian Federal Property Fund and the property funds of the Russian Federation components and other interested ministries and departments:

are before 1 May 1995 to verify compliance with the requirements of Russian Federation legislation on the keeping of registers of share holders in joint-stock companies set up in the process of privatization, and to present materials on the results of this verification to the Russian Federation Government;

are to present before 25 April 1995 in conjunction with the relevant federal executive organs to the Russian Federation Government a list of federal state enterprises liable to privatization before the end of 1995;

are to elaborate and present to the Russian Federation Government by 25 April 1995 a timetable for the sale of shares in privatized enterprises with an incorporation capital of over 250 million rubles, which shares are to be held by the relevant property funds.

6. The Russian Federation Government Federal Commission for Securities and the Stock Market:

is to coordinate the activity of the federal executive organs, the executive organs of Russian Federation components, and state and nonstate institutions as regards the development of a registrar system in the Russian Federation;

is to prepare and submit to the Russian Federation Government by 25 April 1995 a draft Russian Federation presidential edict on the self-regulating organizations of professional participants in the securities market and a draft Russian Federation Government decree on amending and supplementing the Statute on Joint-Stock companies, ratified by the RSFSR Council of Ministers Decree No. 601 of 25 December 1990 and the Statute on Issuing and Circulating Securities and on Stock Exchanges in the RSFSR, ratified by RSFSR Government Decree No. 78 of 28 December 1991, which stipulates the procedure for regulating the standards of the activity of participants in the securities market;

is to ratify by 25 April standards for issuing and circulating housing certificates as a special form of securities on the basis of proposals drawn up by the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances and the Russian Federation Ministry of Construction;

is to elaborate and ratify by 1 May 1995 documents regulating the standards of prospectuses on the emission of nonstate securities in accordance with international standards;

is to prepare by 15 May 1995 with the participation of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation standards governing the functioning of the registrar system, and to ratify them in accordance with established procedures;

is to elaborate and ratify by 1 August 1995 in conjunction with the Russian news agency NOVOSTI and other interested organizations a program for setting up a Russian stock market telecommunications system, including the question of the computerization of the securities market in the Russian Federation;

is to submit proposals to the Russian Federation Government by 1 July 1995 on creating guaranteed funds for registrars and providing deposit and clearing services;

is to elaborate and ratify by 1 September 1995 in conjunction with the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property, and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation basic provisions for the transaction of securities through depositories and for recording transactions involving the safe-keeping, servicing, and payment for securities, including state securities;

is to elaborate and ratify by 25 April 1995 in conjunction with the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation the procedure for the participation of nonresidents in the acquisition of securities issued by Russian entities;

is to ensure before 1 September 1995 in conjunction with the Russian Federation State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Support of the New Economic Structures the elaboration and ratification of documents on

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the procedure for applying antimonopoly legislation in the transaction of deals in shares and bonds.

7. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances in conjunction with the Federal Commission:

is to expedite presentation of the draft Russian Federation Government decision on state bonds issued by the Russian Federation components and on municipal bonds;

is to determine before 1 May 1995 the procedure for replacing share deposition certificates and to implement in the course of 1995 measures for replacing share deposition certificates with personalized shares;

is to elaborate and present to the Russian Federation Government by 1 November 1995 proposals for amending and supplementing the rules governing the recording of securities transactions to allow for the peculiarities of recording securities transactions and payment for securities at the time of the issue of these securities and that of their circulation and withdrawal from circulation, their redemption by the body acting as the issuer, and the valuation of the net assets by joint-stock companies, investment and nonstate pension funds, and also persons carrying out professional activity in the securities market.

8. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances is by 1 July 1995 to bring the registration of securities issues in the Russian Federation into line with Russian Federation legislation.

9. The Russian Federation Tax Service in coordination with the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances and the Federal Commission is to prepare by 1 May 1995 proposals for amending the procedure for taxing transactions involving state bonds issued by the Russian Federation components and municipal bonds, and also the income of juristic persons from transactions involving the aforementioned securities.

A.B. Chubays, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, is charged with monitoring the implementation of this decree.

[Signed] Russian Federation Government V. Chernomyrdin

[Dated] Moscow, 15 April 1995, No. 336

Pipeline Network Planned To Pump Oil West

MK2504132095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 9

[Report by Aleksey Sukhodoyev: "'Rosneft' Steps Up Operations in Northwest. Oil Companies To Set Up Their Own Export Infrastructure"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Transformations in the Russian oil sector do not limit themselves to production matters alone; newly created oil companies encounter the need to find markets for their products. Quite naturally, a solution to this problem starts with large-scale wholesale deliveries or, to be more precise, with exports. The lineup of the "Rosneft" joint-stock company, to be set up on the basis of a state enterprise of the same name, is fairly symptomatic in this context; its organizers envision to provide it with a full-blown export infrastructure from the outset.

Till very recently, a relationship between oil companies and the development of the oil pipeline network was very indirect—it involved mother companies' "granddaughters" or "great granddaughters" at best—for instance, "Surgutneftegaz" has relied on services by "Kirishneftekhimeksport" (which is building a transshipment port facility in the Baltic Sea), a terminal on the Pacific coast for "Sidanko" is being built by Far Eastern Petroleum, while LUKoil has purchased a 20-percent stake in the Novorossiysk port.

Recently a certain breakthrough has become evident in this area. "Rosneft" has become the first company springing from a state-owned enterprise to be called on to resolve export problems in a new fashion. The new company's list of founders, with which KOMMERSANT-DAILY has familiarized itself, includes such enterprises as the "Severneftrservis" joint-stock company (Arkhangelsk-based transshipment oil terminal) and the Rosnefteimpeks joint-stock company (Russia's largest specialized exporter of oil products). These enterprises are planned to be included in "Rosneft" (which is a novelty as Russian companies go). Buttressed by them, a "new" "Rosneft" can straddle both paths of oil product exports to Northwestern Europe: Currently, "Rosnefteimpeks" operates a product pipeline to the Ventspils port (the sole full-blown terminal in this area), while the Arkhangelsk base may become fairly attractive in the near future (currently its annual capacity is 3 million tonnes a year).

For Russian oil production industries in general, however, this is far from the best possible balance. In the Far East and the Black Sea, existing transshipment facilities and those under construction are more or less in line with emerging trends in oil processing development; the issue is available capacities of 8 million tonnes and 5.5-million tonne capacities under construction in the Pacific Ocean and respective 11-million tonne and 10-million tonne capacities in the Black Sea. At the same time, an acute shortage of transshipment capacities in the northwestern region will remain in the near future: The use of Baltic ports involves certain overcharges in any case, while Russian terminals either require renovation (such as "Severnefteservis") or are still being built ("Golden Gate" and Batareynaya Bay).

In addition, "Rosneft" is intent on keeping a tight grip on this region, which automatically relegates all enterprises that did not become part of it to the role of step-daughters; these are, in particular, refineries in Ukhta, Kirishi, and Yaroslavl ("Yaroslavlnefteorgsintez"); moreover, enterprises of the Volga and Urals region may also be interested in gaining access to the Atlantic (for them, both the Black Sea and northern seas, alongside the Baltics, is practically the same distance).

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International Affairs

Kuchma: Spread of NATO Will Not 'Enhance European Security'

LD2504135095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1327 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Igor Shamshin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prague April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Ukraine has never objected in principle to NATO's possible spread, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said in an interview with the Czech newspaper Lidove Noviny, published on Tuesday. He said the increase of the number of participants in the North Atlantic Alliance is "the problem of NATO and states wishing to join it".

At the same time Kuchma believes that there is a relative military balance in Europe now. European states have agreed jointly to maintain security. Therefore, it is necessary to take into account the interests of all European countries when the revision of the existing balance of forces is considered.

"Ukraine does not believe that a rapid spread of NATO to its Western frontiers will enhance European security", Kuchma said. "In this event Ukraine will become a 'buffer' state situated between the North Atlantic Alliance and member-countries of the Tashkent agreement on the collective security in the CIS."

Clinton To Visit May 11, Sign Joint Statements

LD2504125895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1217 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Viktor Demidenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—U.S. President Bill Clinton will arrive in Ukraine for an official visit on May 11. The date was confirmed at a briefing today by head of the information department of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Yuriy Sergeyev.

According to Sergeyev, by the end of the visit the Ukrainian and U.S. presidents are going to sign a joint statement, which will open up new opportunities for a further development of Ukrainian-American cooperation. It is also planned to sign agreements on a joint use for commercial purposes of Ukrainian carrier rockets, on rendering legal assistance to Ukraine by the U.S. And on setting up joint commissions for the development of mutually advantageous economic cooperation.

Kuchma on Aim of Clinton Talks

LD2504201495 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 25 Apr 95

[No video available]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma stated on Monday [24 April] that the main aim which the Ukrainian leadership has set itself for the negotiations in Kiev with U.S. President Bill Clinton is to attract American private business to take part in the reconstruction of Ukraine's economy. The United States play a large role in providing help to our state. Europe, according to the president, which has a wealth of its own problems, has a different attitude toward us than the United States or Canada.

Leonid Kuchma announced that he wants Ukraine not just to receive credits for mending its trade deficit, but for our economy to receive private capital. Another significant factor in reviving the economy is stabilization of the financial system. Thus, one has to reform the monetary policy.

Kuchma Not To Attend Anniversary Ceremonies

LD2404164995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 24 Apr 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 24 (Interfax-Ukraine)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma will not attend the celebrations on the anniversary of the end of World War II in London or Paris. He said so Monday [24 April] as he visited a hospital in Kiev.

Kuchma said that the invitations to the festivities were recognition that Ukraine took an active part "in those events" but he believed that numerous people would not understand the purpose of his voyages.

He said that he intended to visit Italy in early May to sign agreements on significant financial aid to Ukraine.

Kuchma added that after a military and veterans' parade in Kiev on May 9 he will go to Moscow to lay a wreath on behalf of Ukraine there.

"We were together at that time," he said.

Kuchma, Havel Meet, Discuss Transit Arrangements

LD2504195895 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leonid Kuchma and Vaclav Havel, the presidents of Ukraine and the Czech Republic, have discussed a wide range of political and economic issues concerning Ukrainian-Czech relations during their negotiations in Prague. Leonid Kuchma arrived in the Czech capital today on a two-day state visit. The two sides assessed the negotiations as very fruitful. We managed to immediately find mutual understanding on all issues, Leonid Kuchma told journalists after the meeting.

During the negotiations it was proposed to sign a trilateral agreement between Ukraine, the Czech Republic,

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and Turkmenistan. The agreement aims at deliveries of raw materials from Turkmenistan to the Czech Republic crossing Ukraine in transit. The issue of transporting nuclear fuel from Russia to the Czech Republic through Ukrainian territory was also discussed.

Economic cooperation will be discussed in more detail today during a meeting between the president of Ukraine and Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus.

Kuchma Offers Support for Kazakh Referendum

LD2404175595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1731 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, April 24 (ITAR-TASS)—During a telephone conversation with Nursultan Nazarbayev Monday, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma supported the decision of the Kazakhstani leader to hold a referendum on the extension of his term in the office until December 1, 2000.

"The direct appeal to the nation is the only correct step in the present extraordinary situation", Kuchma said and wished Nazarbayev a success in the plebiscite scheduled for April 29.

The presidents informed each other about the socio-economic and political situation in their countries and measures they take in order to boost reforms and "maintain constitutional order".

Kuchma has accepted Nazabayev's invitation to visit Kazakhstan.

Kuchma Discusses Crimea, Chernobyl, NATO With EU Delegation

WS2404105095 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0730 GMT 24 Apr 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Friday, April 21 President Leonid Kuchma met with a EuroParliament delegation in Kiev to state Ukraine's stance as readiness for civilized collaboration, rather than seeking charity.

Mr. Kuchma informed the delegation in great detail about the current situation in Ukraine, which he referred to as complicated, and voiced Ukraine's interestedness in the speedy ratification of the Ukrainian-EU cooperation agreement.

The talk focused on Ukraine's most sensitive issues, such as the Crimean developments, Chernobyl NPP's [nuclear power plant] eventual dismantling, as well as some topical regional and international issues, NATO's eastward extension included.

The delegation's leader, Ms. Elizabeth Schroeder, praised regular EuroParliament-Ukrainian contacts as facilitating the agreement's ratification, and reiterated the EuroParliament's support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and border inviolability, as well as its vision of Ukraine as a bridge between the West and the East. Commenting on Russian-Ukrainian relations President Kuchma referred to Russia as Ukraine's strategic partner.

On the same day, the EuroParliament delegation met with members of the Verkhovna Rada [Supreme Council] Committee for human rights, ethnic minorities and interethnic relations.

Russia's Rybkin Favors Approval of Framework Agreement

LD2504213795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 25 (Interfax)—Chairman of the Russian State Duma Ivan Rybkin has called to go ahead with the signing of a framework agreement between Russia and Ukraine.

In an interview with Interfax after a private meeting with a visiting team of Ukrainian deputies on Tuesday, he said there were widespread expectations about the deal in both countries, whose people were tired of political squabbling.

Rybkin said agreement was reached that the Black Sea Fleet would act like a shield helping Russia and Ukraine to protect their southern borders and that it would make no sense "to lose it in the face of a naval build-up by Turkey and other countries."

On Crimea, he said "this is the internal affair of Ukraine, but the problem must be resolved accounting for the Crimeans' will and on the basis of international law."

Rybkin spoke of pointing by way of example to Georgia, whose leader Eduard Shevardnadze now speaks in terms of forming a federation with Abkhazia and South Ossetia rather than a unitary state. He believes Kiev ought to be more flexible in order to strike an amicable deal with Crimea.

Udovenko, Czech Counterpart Discuss NATO, Council of Europe

LD2504214995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1941 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Igor Shamshin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prague, April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Ukraine counts on special relations with NATO and Kiev will try to achieve favorable attitude on the part of ruling structures of this organization, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko told his Czech counterpart here today. The negotiations were held within the framework of the state Czech visit of the Ukrainian president.

Well-informed sources told ITAR-TASS that Hennadiy Udovenko expressed the Ukrainian interest in the soonest joining of the Council of Europe. He informed

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the Czech side of the Ukrainian political and economic situation and forecasted its future development.

In the opinion of the Czech foreign minister, independent Ukraine should be more involved in the European discussion on building of continental security structures. He stressed that Kiev is holding a policy independent from the states-participants in the Tashkent treaty on Commonwealth collective security.

EU Team To Ratify Legislative Cooperation Act

WS2404113995 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0730 GMT 24 Apr 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A EuroParliamentary mission appraises Ukraine's constitutional process as processing normally. The above appraisal was voiced on Thursday, April 20, when the EuroParliament's mission for contacts with Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova met in Kiev with Verkhovna Rada [Supreme Council] Chairman Oleksandr Moroz.

The delegation's fact-finding mission to the Ukrainian capital involved Ukraine's contemplated accedence to diverse pan-European institutions.

The Ukrainian parliament speaker reassured the visitors as to the new Ukrainian Constitution's tenor likely to be published in May. Pending its adoption Ukraine's constitutional process will unfold based on the bill on state power and local self-government, which President Kuchma has sponsored, Mr. Moroz went on.

As it was noted during the meeting, the EuroParliament is expected to shortly ratify the agreement on interparliamentary cooperation with Ukraine, which the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has already ratified.

International Assistance Sought for Chernobyl Aftermath

LD2604100695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0940 GMT 26 Apr 95

[By Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 26 (Itar-Tass)—Ukraine is counting on an increase in international assistance to efforts dealing with the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster, the country's parliament said in an appeal to the legislators of the Group of Seven industrialised countries and the European Union.

The appeal adopted by the Ukrainian parliament today, on the ninth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, stresses that the Ukrainian people should not be left to face the consequences of the Chernobyl blast alone, since the explosion of its nuclear reactor was an unheard-of blow not only to Ukraine but also to Belarus and Russia, as well as to the whole world.

There are more than two thousand residential centres on Ukrainian territory which were affected by radioactive contamination. About four million people, including 1.5 million children, were irradiated.

The appeal recalls that some 100 thousand people had to be evacuated from the contaminated areas in 1986. Some 123 thousand hectares of farmland and 136 thousand hectares of woodland were made unusable. All that became a heavy burden Ukraine has to bear.

More than 2.5 million people continue to reside in areas contaminated with radioactive fallouts. These people do not get qualitative healthcare and ecologically clean foodstuffs are in a deficit. As a result, the state of health of the population in general and of children, in particular, is deteriorating from year to year.

In the obtaining situation it is necessary to bring together the intellectual and material resources of the world community, international organisations, scientific and business communities, all those who are interested in overcoming the effects of the disaster, the appeal says.

The Ukrainian parliament expresses the hope that the world community will show understanding of Ukraine's troubles without overemphasising the demand to close down the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Ukraine hopes that the world community will contribute to reform of Ukraine's power sector and to handling the entire range of the country's social and economic problems.

It will be fair because Ukraine is the first among the world's nuclear powers to eliminate its own nuclear weapons, the appeal says.

National Affairs

Crimean Parliament Adopts Draft Resolution on Referendum

LD2504140695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1145 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—The Crimean parliament deputies adopted in principle the proposed draft resolution on holding a Crimean-wide referendum and formed an editorial commission, which is to present the elaborated draft to the Crimean Supreme Council's evening sitting.

Speaking during discussion of the draft resolution, Oleksandr Kruhlov stated that "the referendum is a grenade, which we will blow up at the right moment." However, according to him, "right now the Crimean Supreme Council should not insist on Russia taking extreme measures. A favorable time for this will still come."

People's Deputy Vasyl Kyselyov noted in his speech that Crimean parliamentarians "cannot work normally, they can only fight."

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In the opinion of people's Deputy Nadyr Beketov, the Crimean Supreme Council "did not allow itself to work" in the course of this year.

Deputy Tetyana Ryabchykova stated that a referendum with questions in this form will not have any consequences.

Kuchma Calls Crimean Referendum 'Unlawful'

LD2504193395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prague, April 25 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE)—The Crimean parliament's decision to hold a referendum on the autonomy's constitution was "outside Ukraine's constitutional space and unlawful," Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma told Interfax-Ukraine Tuesday [25 April].

"Even if the Crimean parliament continues its illegal activities, the Kiev authorities will have to take adequate measures," Kuchma added. However, he declined to name the measures he was referring to.

Kuchma is staying in Prague on an official visit.

Meshkov Addresses Demonstrators at Parliament Building

LD2504214195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 25 Apr 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, April 25 (Interfax)—Crimea's way is that of "a peaceful, legal and democratic development based on the protection of the interests of each of its residents," Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov said in Simferopol Tuesday [25 April].

In his brief speech near the parliamentary building in Simferopol, he called on "the people of Crimea to show restraint."

Meshkov was addressing about 200 demonstrators picketing the building in protest of the abolition of Crimea's Constitution and presidency as well as the government resignation.

Later, the demonstrators moved to the Crimean government building to demand the abolition commission stop working in the presidential office.

Tsekov Says No Choice But To Call Referendum

LD2504214695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, April 25 (Interfax - Ukraine)—If the majority says yes at the referendum and Ukraine rejects its results, most Crimean residents will be outraged, Sergey Tsekov, chairman of the Crimean parliament, told Interfax - Ukraine Tuesday [25 April].

He said that the Crimean Supreme Soviet had no choice but to call a referendum, to be held on June 25, on the Crimean Constitution.

There is no arbiter in Ukraine who Simferopol could apply to and Crimea has no right to apply to international organizations, Tsekov explained.

He emphasized that the Crimean leaders once believed that they should not focus attention on observance of human and ethnic minority rights in Ukraine but now they feel that they should raise the issue.

He believes that Ukrainian MPs will eventually understand that the decisions they made on Crimea went too far.

Tsekov insisted that the sole possible solution to the situation is to observe the rights of those who found themselves in the Republic of Crimea and the territorial integrity, the basic principle of international law. He believed that the Crimean Constitution offered this compromise.

Crimea Calls on Ukraine To Be Guarantor of Referendum

LD2504215995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 25 (Interfax-Ukraine)—The Crimean Supreme Soviet called on the Ukrainian parliament to act as a guarantor of holding a referendum on basic provisions of the Crimean Constitution.

In an address adopted Tuesday the Crimean deputies say that they act in the Ukrainian legal space which, they believe, is largely inconsistent.

They argue that the Ukrainian legislation does not fully recognize the interests of Crimean and its residents and the decisions passed by the Ukrainian president and Supreme Soviet on March 17, 24 and 31 make them less than equal to other residents of Ukraine.

They go on to say that, expressing the will of their electorate and in line with the international legal principles, they hope to convince the Ukrainian deputies to start a difficult but essential dialog so as to recognize the interests of the Crimean residents in full conformity with generally accepted democratic values.

The referendum, Crimean legislators believe, will enable Crimean residents to express their view of their Constitution and will be consistent with Ukrainian legislation.

Crimeans Invite Russian Deputies To Celebrate May Day

LD2504220295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, April 25 (Interfax - Ukraine)—The deputies of the Crimean Supreme Soviet

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decided to send to the Russian State Duma an invitation to Russian deputies "to visit Crimea on May days and to have a first-hand impression of the situation". Such a decision was made by Vladimir Kolodkin's proposal.

Vladimir Klychnikov, deputy chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet proposed to create a plenary delegation for visitng Russia "on a high level". According to him, such a visit was necessary to solve economic issues.

It was decided to consider Klychnikov's proposal at the nearing plenary sitting. The session will last till April 26.

Crimea's Civic Congress Campaigning For Kuchma Resignation

LD2504221795 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—The Republican Party of Crimea [RPC] has joined the ranks of the Civic Congress of Ukraine [CCU]. This decision was adopted at a joint meeting of the Coordinating Council of the CCU and the RPC Congress in Simferopol.

The CCU press service told UNIAN today that a joint decision was adopted on supporting an initiative of the Union of Working Women to gather 3 million signatures for the early suspension of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's powers.

Under the terms of the CCU statute, a RPC-Republican Movement of Crimea faction, headed by Crimean Supreme Council Chairman Serhiy Tsekov, has been set up in the organization.

Members of the CCU-RPC intend to take part in Ukrainian parliamentary by-elections.

According to the decision, it was decided to organize a collection of signatures during the election campaign for the reunification of Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan into a single union, "on the basis of the cultural and historical achievements of peoples."

Crimean Supreme Council for Referendum on Autonomous Status

MK2604055695 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Pilat under the "Crimea" rubric: "Tsekov's Party Is Preparing for the Offensive. Those Deputies Who Are Ready To Support the Idea of a Referendum Are To Make the Next Move"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the seventh congress of the Republican Party of Crimea-the Crimean Republican Movement party (RPC-CRM), held 22 April in Simferopol, there was probably not one of those who had been among the founders of both the party and the movement. In general, after all the splits that have taken place, Tsekov's party numbers not more than 200 members.

The congress considered the question "On Associated Membership in the 'Civic Congress of Ukraine' Party." Oleksandr Bazilyuk, chairman of the "Civic Congress of Ukraine" (CCU), the headquarters of which is located in Donetsk, proposed that the RPC-CRM (Tsekov's party), fully retaining its independence, join CCU as an associate member. He emphasized that today "decisions on Crimean issues are made in Simferopol or in Moscow." Furthermore, Bazilyuk said that "internationalist forces should gain the upper hand in Moscow. Kozyrev and even Yeltsin realize this today.... To settle the Crimean issue it is necessary to settle the Ukrainian issue. As soon as Ukraine unites with Russia, there will be no problems of Crimea, Sevastopol, and the Black Sea Fleet." In Bazilyuk's opinion, associate membership is necessary for RPC-CRM to enter the all-Ukrainian arena, "the more so that RPC-CRM's goals correspond to those of the Civic Congress of Ukraine." CCU Kharkov Branch Chairman Anatoliy Volchenko said that "the situation in Ukraine at present is very tense. There will be considerable changes in the near future. Make a note of the date of 15 May." When asked by the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent what he meant, however, Volchenko only said: "You will see yourself, little time is left."

The congress has adopted a resolution saying: "To create RPC's faction within the CCU party." Some 72 delegates voted for it, three were against, and three abstained. Sergey Tsekov noted: "A faction, in fact, also means associate membership. But we say 'faction' in order that Ukraine's Ministry of Justice should have no grounds to find fault with us."

Sergey Tsekov then presented his report "On the Political and Legal Situation in Crimea and Current Affairs." He disapproved of the Ukrainian Supreme Council's decisions of 17 and 24 March, the Ukrainian president's edict of 31 March "On Placing the Crimean Government Under the Jurisdiction of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers," as well as the actions of a group of deputies (according to Tsekov, "there were some 40 people") who had created the Supreme Council of the autonomous Republic of Crimea. It should be noted that in the Crimean parliament there are only 98 deputies. Tsekov said that "in all probability, on 25 April the Crimean Supreme Council's session will cancel the moratorium on an all-Crimean referendum, the date of which will be set for 25 June, when local Councils are to be elected in Crimea, or later. This will be the referendum on the recognition of the Crimean Constitution of 6 May 1992, or maybe even the referendum on the status of Crimea." Tsekov noted, however, that, as regards the mechanism of holding a referendum (or referendums) "there may be counteraction on the part of the Crimean government and local authorities, which largely adhere to Ukraine's stance."

The congress adopted a resolution saying, specifically: "The unlawful actions of Ukraine, which annulled the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea, abolished the

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post of Crimean president, and placed the executive power under Ukraine's direct jurisdiction, mean the actual liquidation of autonomy in Crimea and are aimed, first of all, at the infringement of the rights of the Russian population. The decisions adopted by Ukraine are prompted, first of all, by the desire to bar the forces that won in elections for president and the Crimean Supreme Council—mainly the Russian and Russian-speaking population—from access to executive power." The congress condemned the "unlawful, nationalistic actions of Ukraine's political leadership, grossly violating human rights, especially those of the Russian and Russian-speaking population," and suggested that "the Crimean Supreme Council should initiate the adoption of an appeal to international organizations on the protection of human rights in Crimea" and to make the decision "On Holding a Referendum To Confirm the Recognition of Constitution of Crimea of 6 May 1992."

Today, the second session of the Crimean Supreme Council, at which Tsekov intends to initiate the adoption of "decisions having the utmost importance for the fate of the Republic of Crimea," will continue its work. Observers believe that, most probably, the session will fail to gain the number of votes required for the adoption of the decision to cancel the moratorium on holding an all- Crimean referendum.

Meanwhile, over the Autonomous Republic of Crimea's government house as well as on the flagstaff near the Simferopol City Executive Council, several days ago Ukraine's state flags were hoisted next to those of the autonomous republic. Above the Crimean Supreme Council's house there is still only the Crimean flag.

Moroz Greets Participants in Lenin's Birthday Party

WS2604083795 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0738 GMT 26 Apr 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev's International Center of Culture and Arts was the venue of a meeting to mark the 125th birthday anniversary of V.I. Lenin. The nostalgia-driven gathering heard a speech, which was delivered by Ukrainian Communist Party first secretary Petro Symonenko, and a message of greetings sent to its attendants by the leader of the Ukrainian Socialist Party and parliament speaker, Oleksandr Moroz. The gathering adopted an appeal to Kiev residents in view of the metropolitan municipality's attempt to bar May Day demonstrators from Khreshchatyk, Kiev's thoroughfare. The document calls upon Kievans to join the May Day demo. The meeting was attended by Verkhovna Rada [Supreme Council] first deputy chairman Oleksandr Tkachenko.

Proposal To Build Underground Nuclear Power Plant

WS2504070295 Kiev KYYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 18 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by H. Pyvovarov: "Underground Nuclear Power Plant; Science Fiction or Reality?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Few people currently know about the "Kontsern Enerhiya" share holding transnational industrial-financial corporation (this is how it calls itself). It may happen, however, that tomorrow this name will be on everyone's lips. This share holding association, combining 30 companies of various forms of ownership from four countries, is offering a grandiose and unique design of a new type of electric power plant.

As Ravil Abuberkov, president of the corporation, believes, these stations represent a path toward a resolution of the problem of power supplies in Ukraine, and, first of all, may become power engineering enterprises which replace the capacities of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant if the latter is removed from operation. The first underground nuclear thermoelectric plant is proposed to be built in the city of Slavutych. Several underground nuclear power plants are already operating in Russia. This represents the know-how of nuclear power engineering. Only now is the "top secret" seal being taken off the existence of such stations in Russia.

What does this miracle of engineering and construction represent? Underground nuclear thermoelectric power plants are "champions" in terms of all nuclear, power engineering, and economic parameters. The capacity of one such station equals the capacity of one 1-million-kilowatt bloc of the Chernobyl plant—almost 1,000 megawatts. It can be constructed within three and a half or four years; it will cost $220 million—almost seven times cheaper than one RBMK-1000 bloc. The station is constructed 50 meters under the earth's surface. All facilities are hidden beneath the earth, and only the computing and administrative centers, as well as some other auxiliary units, are located above ground. All processes are fully automated. The personnel have to go underground to replace fuel only once every six months.

The underground nuclear thermoelectric power plant, the corporation president said, will be equipped with nuclear-safe and environmentally clean reactors, which do not release plutonium during their work process, and which can even incinerate weapons-grade plutonium. Even in case of an accident, there will be no need to evacuate the population.

One can speak for a long time about the qualities of the marvelous station. Its operation basically rules out the danger of fire. The high level of resistance to damage by shock of its facilities makes it possible to locate such stations in any seismic region, and they are not vulnerable to even a direct nuclear explosion.

An underground nuclear thermoelectric power plant produces 16 times less waste. The production costs of

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one kilowatt hour will be $0.12, while at thermal stations it amounts to $0.37, and at the currently operating nuclear power plants—$0.33.

In addition to its underground fantasy, to resolve the issue of burying the waste from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, "Kontsern Enerhiya" is proposing to set up a company in the vicinity of Slavutych to produce particularly clean quartz—a material with a very high radiation stability. This will make it possible to manufacture containers to store highly radioactive waste. Ukraine has the required raw materials to produce such quartz. A company to produce robots and equipment capable of operating in conditions of high radiation could be set up near the "quartz" plant.

While listening to Ravil Abdurakhimovych's story, one can have the impression of reading a novel about fascinating adventures. Still, one little "but," as always, arises in this regard—where can one get the money to implement this fantastic project? But Ravil Abuberkov is full of optimism in this regard as well: We will find foreign investors, provided that the governments of G-7 countries provide appropriate guarantees. Plus, the G-7 will give us guarantees at the government level if Ukraine decides to construct an underground nuclear thermoelectric power plant.

Are there more dreams, fantasies, reality, or precise calculations in this project? I think that there are more dreams. Still, if the features of underground nuclear power plants prove to be at least close to the parameters presented by "Kontsern Enerhiya," these stations may become an alternative not only to nuclear power engineering, but to power engineering in general.

One can hardly believe in this. But since we believed in a shining future for 70 years, why we should not believe a little in the safe shine of nuclear power engineering. Anything can happen in the world....

Health Minister: Over 8,000 Died After Chernobyl Disaster

AU2504193195 Paris AFP in English 1812 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 25 (AFP)—More than 8,000 civilians and workers involved in clean-up operations died in a six-year-period following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, Health Minister Andrei Serdyuk said here Tuesday [25 April].

Between 1988 and 1994, 5,722 workers died who had been involved in the clean-up operation following the nuclear catastrophe, said Serdyuk.

In addition, 2,510 civilians evacuated from the area died during the same period, the minister told a press conference on the eve of the ninth anniversary of the most serious nuclear accident.

Some 432,OOO who have worked to tackle the consequences of the accident require treatment for illnesses ranging from cancer to depression, said the minister.

In the Ukraine region as a whole, the number of patients suffering from thyroid cancer has risen ten-fold, but the health minister said the increase could only partly be blamed on Chernobyl.

However, the number of children suffering from thyroid cancer, breathing difficulties and problems with the endocrine gland is significantly higher in the Chernobyl area, said the minister.

Some 650,000 people were involved in tackling the blaze at the nuclear power station and cleaning up the environment after radiation spread over the surrounding area.

Economic Issues

World Bank Official on 'Hidden Unemployment'

LD2504210595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1425 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—According to various data, official unemployment in Ukraine stands at 3-6 percent and hidden unemployment at 35 percent. Seventy per cent of the population have additional earnings through foreign trips, use of a private car as a taxi, letting their apartments, and work on allotments. This information was quoted by Daniel Kaufman, World Bank representative in Ukraine, at a national seminar on social security, employment, and pension provisions, being held on the territory of "Pushcha- Ozerna" from 25 to 28 April.

He rejected the theory that introduction of radical reforms can damage the social sphere. Kaufman said that the hypothesis that the main problem of Ukraine today is not unemployment but low income is wrong.

Arkadiy Yershov, social security minister of Ukraine, said at the seminar that there are 15 million pensioners in Ukraine, 8 million of whom receive social benefit. He stated that while in 1990 pensions made up 60 percent of working wage, in 1994 it was only 27 percent [sentence as received]. Yershov spoke for the need to reorganize the pension fund of Ukraine into a social insurance fund. He said that the Social Security Ministry is drafting four new laws on the issues of social insurance.

The seminar, which was organized by the Social Security Ministry of Ukraine and the World Bank, is being attended by deputies of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, and representatives of the president's administration, the government, and ministries, as well as regional representatives of Ukraine.

Joint German Venture Licensed To Explore Gas Deposits

WS2604083895 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0730 GMT 26 Apr 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] LUHANSK—Ukrainian-German joint venture "Oberon-Vuhillia Ltd." ("Oberon-Coal Ltd.") (Dniepropetrovsk) received a license for the industrial investigation of Chabanivsk gas mine which is situated in the Luhansk region. According to the evaluations of the specialists, the deposits of gas are as large as one billion cubic meters, and they lie down at depth of 1,600-1,800 meters. Though final northern outlines of the mine are not determined yet.

Securities Issued To Cover Gas Debts to Russia

LD2504214595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 25 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE)—The Ukrainian government will issue securities worth $1.4 billion by the end of the current year, Ukraine's Deputy Premier and acting Foreign Economic Relations Minister Serhiy Osyka told Interfax-Ukraine.

These securities will be given to Russia to cover Ukraine's debt to the joint-stock company Gazprom in accordance with the intergovernmental agreement "On the Principles of Settling Ukraine's Debt for the Natural Gas Russia Supplied in 1994, and Ensuring Payments for Gas Supplies in 1995" signed in Kiev on March 20.

It is believed that these securities will be sold in Russia. Their owners will have the right to take part in the privatization of Ukrainian enterprises.

Osyka believes that the Ukrainian government's securities will not enjoy high demand among Russian businessmen. According to him, they will not be attractive because they have a long repayment time— 12 years, and a short grace period—two years.

In addition, the owners of these securities will have the right to use them to buy Ukrainian enterprises only at privatization auctions on general conditions. This will not guarantee them the opportunity to buy a considerable amount of property, Osyka said.

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Belarus

Lukashenka Holds News Conference

LD2204135595 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1600 GMT 20 Apr 95

[News conference by President Alyaksandr Rygoravich Lukashenka in the Minsk BTK Television network studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[Uladzimir Narkevich, ZVYAZDA editor-in-chief] Alyaksandr Rygoravich, a week has passed following the factual completion of the work of the Supreme Soviet at the current stage. [word indistinct] the unfortunate incidents [evacuation of hunger strikers from the government building after bomb hoax] and various conflicts in the Supreme Soviet. How, after a calm week, do you assess all those events? What conclusions do you draw for yourself as the president and what prospects are there for the coming elections to the new Supreme Soviet?

[Lukashenka, in Russian] [passage omitted] I make a straightforward conclusion that power must be powerful. If there is no power in the republic, then we will move directly toward a civil war, as some political activists would prefer. Therefore I have no regrets about the resoluteness of my subordinates, who followed accurately those orders and instructions, as they should have done. And as you can see, it resulted in the calm and quiet after that stage of the work of the Supreme Soviet was completed. You can see that the opposition has drawn relevant conclusions for itself. Their position at this moment demonstrates that they have probably understood that they made a very bad mistake; they felt that people did not support them, which can result in their collapse at the elections; therefore, they have retired into the shadows. They are not making any statements now, except for yesterday, I think, when they approached the president—in fact, I did receive that letter—demanding that the president should show the tape about which the president spoke at the session. Of course, we will show it, and not only that tape.

[Moderator, in Russian] Many callers who phoned the studio today asked about that tape.

[Unidentified correspondent, in Russian] Many publications described it as your victory over the parliament. Do you think that there was really a victory? How are you going to build your relations with a new parliament? Will you take an upper hand in your relations with the new parliament?

[Lukashenka, in Russian] As for your second question about supremacy, the president is there in order to exercise supreme power. He is an executive and administrative body, the president is the head of state, therefore his constitutional status is not just as the commander-in-chief of our army, but he also exercises supreme power in the Republic of Belarus. It is straightforward.

As for your question about whether I won or not, if I thought that I had won, it would be ridiculous. Who needs such a Pyrrhic victory? On the other hand, I must tell you that a victory is usually won in a fight, in some fierce confrontation. There is no such fighting and confrontation. Somebody wants to present the situation in the republic that way. There is no confrontation. On the contrary, power has demonstrated that it is powerful, and at last people, simple people who need calm and money at this difficult time, who need to raise children, have said: Maybe in the republic there is power at last.

Yes, power is emerging, people are absolutely correct when they ask such a question. As for relations with the parliament, you cannot cite a single fact in the parliament on Lukashenka provoking confrontation. Maybe somebody wanted it that way, but I have always been saying: Let us cooperate for the sake of the future. [passage omitted]

[Mikhail Chumanskiy] When I visit the countryside people comment on your decree on equal opportunities at the coming elections and have objections on some positions. They say that although this decree offers equal opportunities, workers and peasants may not benefit from them but those who are rich will be able to use those opportunities to a larger extent, of course in a concealed way. But peasants and workers being a poorer social class may receive several black balls at these elections. What can you say about that?

[Lukashenka, in Russian] You know, Mikhail, I would like to ask you a question in return. Can you name at least one norm of this legislative act—the presidential decree—which would give priority to richer people? When we were working on this decree we made our main task to put forward a comprehensive program for those people who cannot use money of enterprises, work collectives—you understand who I am talking about—and, the most frightening thing, mafia money, from those commercial structures which is circulating in our society today.

[Chumanskiy] Some commercial structures.

[Lukashenka, in Russian] Yes, of course just some. I do not mean those which engage in production, they can count their money and Lukashenka knows how to speak to it. But those commercial structures—and believe me there are many of them—they are a majority among all commercial structures. And I aimed at ensuring that their money did not work in the elections. Very strict conditions are set in the program. [passage omitted]

Therefore, I put to those who prepared that program the main task of ensuring equal opportunities. If 600,000 rubles from the budget is what is allocated for everyone—leaders, workers, and peasants alike—of course, it is not much, we are poor at the moment, we have to give something to the war veterans now.

I admit that we gave little money for the elections, we are looking for additional funds. If somebody steps over

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those barriers, you know my resoluteness. There is order, please observe it. As Alyaksandr Abramovich, chairman of the Central Election Commission, said, the president in his decree did not violate a single article of the law. There may be some norms which we did not envisage fully, we did not have much time.

However, we receive satisfactory information on the elections. Conditions are truly equal. Three meetings for all. If there is a ban on organizing rallies at places at work, this concerns everybody. Meetings during working time are banned and this concerns all—leaders and all. Otherwise they will be disqualified as parliamentary deputies. And if the Central Election Commission does not do that, pardon me, but the president will do that. Somebody has to take this responsibility upon themselves and show at least once that we must create equal opportunities at the elections. [passage omitted]

[Moderator, in Russian] There were frictions between us regarding some programs of the Politika studio. However, the Politika studio is working. People like it very much and we receive letters and phone calls to that effect. Therefore, one can say that there is a degree of freedom. The question is how much freedom?

[Lukashenka, in Russian] You know, Eduard, to be honest, your Politika has spilled so much of my blood that I sometimes switch off the television altogether and do not want to watch it. However, it exists. This Politika studio is unfortunately part of society whose opinion it expresses. But I have always said: Be honest. [passage omitted]

And what do journalists do today? They spend all their time in Minsk, run around the presidential residence, the government building, scrape a bit here, a bit there, and straight to the newspaper. Sometimes I see young boys, 20-25 years old, making such analyses, claims to analysis of social life and phenomena that I feel very uncomfortable. I think then that maybe the acceleration has gone so far ahead that I am probably far behind. But all those statements on television are based on their own ambitions and on the ambitions of some parties. And it is true. [passage omitted]

When I argue with you, believe me, I do not do it because I want to break you. You cannot say that at least one person on television or on the radio has been sacked on my initiative, whatever they say against me. One gutter newspaper wrote: Lukashenka's gang. They call me names. I tolerate it because what consequences would there be if I had a confrontation with Pavel (Sheremet). Of course, the forces are not equal there. But I hope that the person will understand sooner or later—I do not mean just Pavel—who Lukashenka is, what his purposes are. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] I am reading a note from [word indistinct] regarding your house: Volkovich from Smolevichi has written that the president of Kazakhstan has built for himself a residence with people's money costing $1 million. Is it true that the construction of a presidential mansion has begun in Minsk too? If so, at whose expense?

[Lukashenka, in Russian] Eduard, you probably know very well that even if Lukashenka very much wanted to build a residence I would never do it in the current situation, when people do not have accommodation and when a family of four or five people live in a one-room apartment. Can I act like those rogues who have built houses around towns? No, we have never built and have never planned to build a residence or a presidential palace, as is written here.

I will tell you something else. As head of state, the president must occupy the best building which today exists in our state. He receives today ambassadors with their credentials. I am ashamed to talk about it but I receive credentials from ambassadors in a small office while there should be a normal room. And there is such a room. There is the former Central Committee building where that collective president whom we always used to have under the umbrella of the Communist Party had his residence.

I put the question of a presidential residence to members of the presidium and to the chairman of the Supreme Soviet when I came to power. The members of the presidium and Myacheslaw Gryb on behalf of the members of the presidium said: Alyaksandr Rygoravich, let us not deal with these issues, when the Supreme Soviet completes its sittings, then we will solve this issue. It is true, you should really be in that residence. Therefore, I tell you without reservation that the presidential residence will be in the party Central Committee building.

The Supreme Soviet will be where it always used to be, in the hall of sittings. And already today we are creating conditions for a new parliament. We are vacating the Hotel Minsk nearby and putting it into order so that deputies will have their permanent accommodation. I must disappoint future deputies. They will not receive other accommodation in Minsk. They will only receive official accommodation for the duration of their deputy mandates. The same concerns government members. We will build those two buildings for official accommodation. When mandates expire, deputies must leave Minsk or buy an apartment as other people do, or build a house at their own expense or go home to their constituency. This is the position.

The parliament will occupy its own residence where it should be next to its hall of sittings in the government building. There is a lot of room there. Myacheslaw Gryb gave us the plan of the building four months ago indicating where and what services should be provided. We have fully prepared that building. As for the presidential residence, it will be where it should be. Therefore, we will not build any additional buildings. We have enough of these buildings for bureaucrats in Minsk, even too many of them because we reduced the apparatus by 30 percent and the president only has 140 people in his

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administration. The tractor works have about 2,000 but I have only 140 for the whole state. [passage omitted]

[Name indistinct, VO SLAVU RODINY, in Russian] Alyaksandr Rygoravich, you said that you trust our army. It is wonderful. Therefore, there is a question. According to tradition, the rank of general is granted in connection with the anniversaries of the Victory. There was talk that the president is afraid of a shower of stars. Will there be a decree granting the military rank of general on 9 May, Victory Day. [passage omitted]

[Lukashenka, in Russian] Heads of relevant departments have approached the president with a request to award general's rank to a number of senior officials of the rank of colonel. I categorically rejected all requests. [passage omitted]

[Igor Lukomskiy, ZNAMYA YUNOSTI, in Russian] Alyaksandr Rygoravich, international financial organizations follow attentively the development of the political situation in our republic. In return for promises of financial help and credits, naturally, they put forward certain political demands. How significantly do you have to change your policy depending on those demands? Do you not feel some discomfort as head of state?

[Lukashenka, in Russian] You are absolutely right, I feel very uncomfortable with western politicians and representatives of international financial organizations who speak for the independence and sovereignty of our state but at the same time put forward to the president political demands. Pardon me, it is our internal business. Those demands concern first of all elections, relations with Russia, and so on. You know what I am talking about. I cannot agree to those political demands and concessions and I am convinced and nobody will be able to convince me other than that the IMF refused to allocate us the second tranche of the stand-by credit because of that. But I cannot agree with those conditions which border on betrayal in relation to our fraternal Russian people and our Belarusian people. There is a limit which I cannot cross. [passage omitted: results of economic treaty with Russia signed in January]

[Lukashenka, in Russian] When the president of the Republic of Belarus signed 30 agreements with Russia, there was no altruism in his actions. There were only the interests of the Belarusian state, while the Russian state had its own interests in mind. The concept was the following: we are not going to put to the Russian state the issue of transit, the maintenance of Russian military bases, and so on; but our Belarusian enterprises must be treated equally with Russian enterprises—this refers to prices—because Russian enterprises today consume gas not even at $50 per 1,000 cubic meter but at $27-30 and oil not at $74 like ours but half of that. The same goes for metal and other resources.

We included in the agreement that such discrimination must be removed. It was the main concept of those agreements. Time will show to what degree the president was right in demanding these particular concessions from Russia. The Russian Government signed the agreement and agreed to the proposal of the Belarusian president. If the Russian Government fulfills those conditions, good. If not, the concept of the Belarusian-Russian agreements is totally destroyed and they will not be able to work. They can work only as a package. Their concept cannot be destroyed.

Unfortunately, lately there have been signs of delays on the part of the Russian Government in order to delay implementation of the package of agreements. Nevertheless, we are currently in a better position than other CIS countries. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Alyaksandr Rygoravich, there are many questions here about the elections? Who will you vote for personally? I think that is probably a secret, but who will you support?

[Lukashenka] It is no secret, I am not going to vote for anybody. Nobody. They will break their promise anyway. I know. One corps has left with privileges, the other will come, grab the privileges and put pressure on the president. It is not that I am campaigning against elections here. If we find out that somebody stands in the way of people expressing their will, they will be removed from their posts. Everybody in the vertical presidential structure knows about that. All leaders know about that, but I will not go to the polling station. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] When will [words indistinct] be resumed?

[Lukashenka] It will be resumed when the West fulfills its obligation regarding the treaty and finances and when it returns all the money which we have spent on the destruction of weapons. I am not speaking about some political issues. They took on an obligation to pay $100 million. Let them give at least $50 million. I will not cut up tanks and planes at the cost of my own budget. The price is too high.

I have other things to spend money on. Chernobyl takes up 20 percent of the budget. Let God help me cope with the problems which exist in the republic. [Words indistinct] to take money from these people to cut up one's own tanks and planes. Not at all. Let them keep their promise. We did not create these planes and tanks, the arms race did, the confrontation between two blocs. Therefore, we are not to blame for what happened on the territory of the Republic of Belarus. We will fulfill the treaty if they pay us. If not, we will not. [passage omitted]

[Igor Bykovskiy, ZNAMYA YUNOSTI] The parliament has ratified the package of Russian-Belarusian agreements. However, as far as I know, Chernomyrdin recently [words indistinct] some additional conditions in his telegram, is it true?

[Lukashenka, in Russian] No, Igor. It was not a telegram but a letter from Viktor Chernomyrdin that. I must say with regret that although he signed it he did not read my name on it. Probably, Bolshakov with his character—he

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sometimes loses direction—addressed it to the president and Viktor Stepanovich signed it without reading it. The letter has been composed almost as an ultimatum to which of course I reacted sharply. That was the first point.

Second, there were no additional conditions in it. It puts forward the issues which have already been solved in Belarus: on customs affairs and others. I am surprised that the Russian authorities did not know about that—if of course they did not know.

Therefore, I am saying that I have certain suspicions in connection with that letter. The only thing that was new is that the Russian side is offering us 100 customs specialists to work on the border with Ukraine in order to close the border with Ukraine. In that case I asked the same question as the border troops did: Do not you trust our customs? Are we not capable of closing this border? Moreover, as you know, there are marshes there, lakes and rivers. It is easier to close the border there than the border with Russia.

Therefore, we do not need either additional Russian troops, border guards, or customs officers. If we agree to integrate we have to trust each other. I made that point directly. That was the only new point in that letter. But I am repeating, [words indistinct] you are absolutely right to be suspicious. There are suspicions. I think that we will quickly sort these things out with the president of Russia. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Reductions, Disarmament

WS2504101595 Minsk SEM DNEY in Russian 15 Apr 95 p 3

[Interview with Defense Minister Anatol Kastenka by Pavel Charnenka; place and date not given: "The Army Reflects Society Like a Mirror"—first paragraph is SEM DNEY introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Many of our readers are interested in the situation in the Belarusian Armed Forces. In their letters and telephone calls, they ask questions about the combat readiness of units and subunits, the strengthening of military discipline and order, the manning of troops, the reduction of the Army... A SEM DNEY correspondent has asked Belarusian Defense Minister Anatol Kastenka to answer some of those questions.**

[Charnenka] I have recently read in a newspaper that the Belarusian Army, because of the lack of resources, is unprepared for combat. Is this true? (K. Derkach, pensioner, Krychaw)

[Kastenka] This is a newspaper hoax. As was the case earlier, military training in the Armed Forces is being conducted under a routine ensuring their readiness to defend the Republic's sovereignty. Problems, however, are not sca[illegible]here is a shortage of fuel, lubricants, and spare parts; many servicemen's families have no housing... The difficult economic situation in the Republic is having an impact on the Army, too.

[Charnenka] When our Army was being created, some military leaders asserted that the manning of military collectives exclusively with Belarusians would put an end to the hazing of junior soldiers in the Army. Things have not, however, moved an inch since then. (Reserve Colonel V. Matusevich, Barysaw)

[Kastenka] The Army reflects society like a mirror. These years we have stopped valuing such notions as patriotism, honor, and duty to the Fatherland. In addition, the general education level of conscripts is falling; the Army is still more often being manned by convicts. All this has its effect on discipline and moral in Army collectives.

Nevertheless, we have been able to halt the spread of hazing among junior soldiers in the Army. New approaches to educational work, which are being implemented among the troops, as well as the territorial principle of manning the Armed Forces, give hope that hazing can be completely eradicated.

[Charnenka] Judging by the outward appearance of some officers and warrant officers in the city, one can conclude that discipline in the Army has fallen. (M. Spiryna, teacher, Minsk)

[Kastenka] By all appearances, the author of this question has in mind the units in which officers and warrant officers wear both old and new uniforms, as well as combinations thereof. Unfortunately, due to financial difficulties, it is impossible to change uniforms for all servicemen at once. This, however, does not mean that discipline in the Army is lower than it was before, I assure you.

[Charnenka] The overwhelming majority of soldiers are now serving right by their homes. But is it possible for mother's darlings to become real soldiers? (A. Kostrykaw, Zhlobin)

[Kastenka] The notion of "real soldier" does not depend on the place of service. It rather depends on a conscript's character, his working, moral, and physical pluck. Serving near to soldiers' homes is a practice conducted in all civilized countries. This practice has its pluses, since it allows for the involvement of conscripts' families and relations, as well as previous working and school collectives, in the process of raising soldiers.

[Charnenka] I live not far from a military unit and see that almost all the soldiers go home on Saturday. My neighbor tells me that the soldiers are granted leaves of absence because there is no food for them... (V. Shanevich, Brest)

[Kastenka] There is an experiment under way now in our units to considerably change the daily routine for enabling leaves of absence to soldiers and sergeants on

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days off and holidays. While earlier we granted leaves of absence to no more that 30 percent of personnel, this is now done with respect to the overwhelming majority of servicemen. Of course, their discipline, progress in training, and diligence is taken into account here. If these innovations take root, they will be introduced in all military collectives.

Thus, your neighbor was wrong. Though, of course, this experiment will surely help us economize material resources (for almost two days, servicemen do not need to be fed by their units). I emphasize, however, that this is not connected with any lack of food for the troops.

[Charnenka] I have heard about a plan to reduce the size of the Vitebsk Airborne Division. How would that be possible? This is one of the best formations in the Belarusian Army. (Reserve Colonel A. Smirnow, Minsk)

[Kastenka] I agree—the 103d Airborne Division has glorious combat records and traditions. It was one of the best airborne formations in the Soviet Armed Forces. The division was tasked with parachuting troops deep inside enemy territory to conduct combat operations in the enemy's rear until the approach of the primary forces.

But now, when the military doctrine of our state is of a defensive nature, there is no need for such a division in the Belarusian Army. We need highly mobile forces for maneuvering within our territory. Therefore, while preserving the division's potential and combat traditions, we are going to create several mobile units, using it as a foundation.

[Charnenka] Is it true that the Defense Ministry is again going to draft students? (P. Sayenka, student, Hrodna)

[Kastenka] The draft for active military service is regulated by the Republic of Belarus' Law on Universal Military Duty and Service, not by the Defense Ministry. In accordance with this law, all Belarusian citizens of draft age and who are fit for military service are obliged to serve in the Army: those with higher education—12 months; those without—18 months. The law provides for deferment of military service for students of day faculties until their graduation, while for students of evening and correspondent courses—until the end of their current academic year. Thus, nobody has the right to "shove students into army boots." There is no such intent on the part of the Defense Ministry.

[Charnenka] Belarus has announced the halt of its tank scrapping program. It follows that Belarus has denounced the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe [CFE]? (N. Ivankin, Zhodzin)

[Kastenka] The point is not in denouncing the treaty. The halt of tank scrapping does not mean that our Republic refuses to fulfill its obligations. However, since dismantling tanks costs a lot (1.5 million rubles per tank), we were looking for other options to reduce their number. As for selling tanks to other countries, this will bring us material profit, as well. If the tanks are not sold, however, we will destroy them as stipulated by the CFE.

[Charnenka] While listening to the defense minister on television and radio, I marvel at his optimism and confidence that the state, society, and, consequently, the army will be able to overcome the current chaos. (V. Davydkina, soldier's mother, Homel)

[Kastenka] Different things have happened in my life, but I have always been optimistic. Otherwise, it would be too sad to go on living. Now I see that the president and the majority of people in his entourage are frankly striving to put an end to the economic crisis and to socially defend the people. Therefore, all reforms currently being implemented are aimed at ensuring the nation's prosperity.

Deputy Minister on Nuclear Nonproliferation

WS2504131595 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1100 GMT 25 Apr 95

[Commentary by Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Sannikaw—from the "Analyses, Commentaries, Forecasts" feature; first paragraph is BELAPAN introduction]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Andrey Sannikaw was born in 1954. He graduated from the Institute of Foreign Languages in Minsk and the Diplomatic Academy in Moscow. He served at the Department of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus; as a counselor at the permanent mission of Belarus to the United Nations, and also in the Belarusian mission at international organizations in Geneva. At present, he is Belarusian deputy foreign minister.

On 17 April in New York, work was begun at the international conference for the consideration of the actions and extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], in which representatives of 173 states took part, who joined the NPT in different years. The Belarusian delegation was headed by Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko. As known, the NPT was signed for a period of 25 years in 1968, and came into force in 1970. Nuclear states, according to the NPT, were the United States, Russia, Great Britain, France, and China. Belarus joined this treaty as a nuclear state in 1993. Already the preparation process for this conference itself has shown over past two years that around the document there are many problems. In particular, in the opinion of several developing countries, the treaty has a discriminative character, as it divides states into powerful and unpowerful—nuclear and nonnuclear. Several states involved in the treaty consider that their rights to obtain and elaborate technology used in the atomic industry are encroached upon. As a rule, the adherents of such arguments are states which hold nuclear ambitions. The policy of Belarus to this question remains unchanged. Our Republic stands for the indefinite extension of the NPT. This position, incidentally, was also voiced at the 49th sitting of the UN General Assembly by Belarusian

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Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir. It should be pointed out that the world community takes heed of our opinion on these questions. This is linked not only with the fact that Belarus joined the treaty as a nonnuclear state, but also to a great extent with that contribution, which our Republic brought to nuclear disarmament. As known, Belarus quite quickly dealt with the "nuclear legacy," not claiming any succession of rights or quasi-nuclear status. Not all states declared this as quickly and as definitely. And our Republic was the first to suggest that the fate of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Weapons should be decided within the framework of a multilateral agreement. We were the first to renounce tactical nuclear weapons, not in July, as was suggested, but in April of 1992. Once strategic nuclear weapons had been withdrawn from the territory of Belarus, the geographical zone and its dislocation were significantly narrowed. By means of the approaching of the conference in New York, the numerous opponents of the indefinite extension of the treaty diminished of arguments. For the first time over 25 years of the existence of the document, a real process of disarmament is under way. If during the times of the USSR, negotiations were held only on some sort of limitations, then immediately after the breakup of the Union in 1991 the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty [START-1] was signed. And this process is continuing. It is possible that a START-2 will be signed between Russia and the United States, envisaging additional limitations of strategic offensive weapons. The second argument of the opponents to the treaty is that the security of nonnuclear states was allegedly not guaranteed to a sufficient extent. Recently in the UN Security Council, a resolution was passed containing a guarantee of security to nonnuclear states. Moreover, unilateral declarations were made by all five nuclear states, which also extends the scope of the guarantee. The third argument—on cooperation in the sphere of the peaceful use of nuclear technology—is extremely ambivalent. Some sort of limitations and maintenance of barriers are essential, which would not allow states of a nuclear persuasion to really receive the technology for production of nuclear weapons. During the conference, as expected, the activity of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] will be revised.

According to the Nonproliferation Treaty, contracting parties are obliged to conclude a safeguards agreement with the IAEA. The agency provides such a regime, where the transfer of nuclear activity from peaceful ends to military ones is impossible. As known, Belarus signed such an agreement several days ago, on 14 April 1995. Unfortunately, the treaty has a great shortcoming in that it does not bear a universal character. As is known, there are states, which are not included in the treaty and about which the press informs that they either already have nuclear weapons, or they are close to receiving them. This concerns, in particular, Israel, India and Pakistan. It is widely known that the South African Republic, which joined the treaty as a nonnuclear state in 1991, announced two years ago that on its territory there were 6 explosive nuclear devices, which were then destroyed. Many experts do not rule out that even states that are included in the treaty as nonnuclear states have nuclear programs. It should be noted that the policy of Belarus in this case is irreproachable. At the conference, many states, probably, will talk of the necessity to impart universality to the treaty. Moreover, the prerequisites are already in existence. The peace process has been diverted from the "dead point" in the Near East, so one can count on the fact that Israel is seriously studying the possibility of joining the NPT. The conference in New York will last until 12 May. The most heated discussion there is expected to be on the question of the prolongation of the treaty. There are several alternatives for making a decision. Article 10 of the document envisages the possibility of its indefinite extension, its extension for some specific period or for several periods of time.

If the treaty collapses, and this alternative should also not be ruled out, in the near future the appearance of new nuclear states is possible. Belarus intends to insist on its point of view, based on the sad experience of the Chernobyl disaster. Radioactive contamination, to which our Republic was subjected, is the same as the consequences of a nuclear explosion. And the Republic of Belarus like no one else has the right to insist on the indefinite extension of the treaty, demanding a guarantee for Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It is important to note that at the conference it is essential to reach a unanimous decision—in this case the treaty will receive significant moral support. If the discussion suddenly becomes quite tense and takes on a confrontational character between developing countries and nuclear states, it is uncertain where those states that have still not determined their position will "swing."

Lukashenka Charged With 'Censorship'

WS2504133295 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1100 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "ZNAMYA YUNOSTI" has published an open letter by Leanid Yekel, chairman of the Union of Journalists, addressed to President Alyaksandr Lukashenka. As is known, the president dismissed Mikhail Katyushenka, chief editor of this youth newspaper, while the latter was on leave.

In the opinion of the head of the Union of Journalists, tough presidential censorship has been introduced in the country. In this regard the atmosphere of tension, nervousness, and fear is reigning in editorial offices. "In words, you are a guarantor of the Constitution, but actually it appears that there is no law for you. If not, how should we understand all this? Where, in which other state does the president hire and dismiss chief editors?... When arbitrary rule and unlawfulness come from the president, what can be expected, and for what should we hope? And why do you think that everything in the world is under your command, that you are the most wise and just father of the nation? Only parents are not chosen, but the president and even God is chosen,

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and, as you know, each to his own," the letter reads. Mr. Yekel suggests that a way out should be found, until the situation does not develop into confrontation.

Moldova

Russian Postponement of Treaty Ratification Protested

LD2504211695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1746 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur "expressed his bewilderment with the Russian postponement" of ratification of the Moldovan-Russian treaty on friendship and cooperation signed back in 1990.

The same goes for the agreement on withdrawal of the Russian 14th Army, Snegur told visiting Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov here today.

In his turn, Krylov assured Snegur that all the agreements will be fulfilled and claims of Trans-Dniester regional leaders on deciding on the fate of the 14th Army are groundless.

Krylov told a news conference on negotiations results that the Duma will ratify the agreement on troops withdrawal and stressed that the servicemen can choose the place of their further service but materiel and armaments will be withdrawn. He reaffirmed the Russian stand on inadmissibility of international control over the troops withdrawal since this is not envisaged by bilateral agreements.

In the opinion of Krylov, there is nothing tragic about the possible resignation of 14th Army Commander General Lebed due to the planned reduction of army command. He said that many people are involved in the army withdrawal and "General Lebed is not the most important person in this process."

News Conference by Russia's Krylov

LD2504221995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, April 25 (Interfax)—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov hopes the State Duma will ratify the treaty on the withdrawal of the 14th Russian army from Moldova.

Speaking at a news conference following his visit to Moldova Krylov said that military servicemen were free to choose where to serve, while equipment and armaments would have to be withdrawn in any case.

Asked about his attitude to the Russian Defence Ministry's directive to reduce the command personnel of the 14th army and its likely effects Krylov said that those questions were the exclusive prerogatives of the Defence Ministry.

About the possible resignation of the 14th army commander Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed Krylov said that the replacement of the commander must not affect order in military units.

"General Lebed is an officer and he is not in full command of his career. There are state interests and a military serviceman has to either obey orders or resign", Krylov said.

He expressed Russia's readiness to continue to furnish assistance in settling conflicts in Transdniestria. Asked what that assistance would look like, Krylov said that Russia was prepared to act as a mediator in negotiations and offer advice on various subjects.

"We proceed from the understanding that Moldova is an integral state and the Transdniestrian crisis is its internal problem. It is up to the Moldovan leaders to find a solution and we are prepared to help it in this", Krylov said.

Parliament Chief Concerned by Lebed Intention To Resign

LD2504171595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1545 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chisinau, 25 Apr—Today Petru Lucinschi, chairman of the Moldovan Parliament, voiced concern over the possible aggravation of the situation in Russia's 14th Army in connection with the announced intention of its commander, Aleksandr Lebed, to step down from his post.

"The reorganization of the Army administration being planned by the Russian Defense Ministry is Russia's internal affair," Petru Lucinschi stressed in an exclusive ITAR-TASS interview. "At the same time, it would be undesirable for Moldova if the changes led to an increase in internal tension within the Russian Army located temporarily on our territory, and to it being drawn into internal political processes."

"A similar destabilization of the situation in the Army could lead to the pilfering of weapons and ammunition from arsenals," the head of the Moldovan Parliament said. "And that would aggravate the situation not only in Moldova, but in this region of Europe as a whole."

"Whatever they say about General Aleksandr Lebed, while he commands the Army, discipline in the Russian troops and the safety of weapons and ammunition are guaranteed," Petru Lucinschi stressed.

Litskay Disagrees With EU Assessment of Dniester Situation

LD2504121995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1119 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TIRASPOL, April 25 (Interfax)—The State Secretary of the unrecognized Republic

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of Dniester in Moldova Valeriy Litskay disagrees with the assessment of the local situation given by the delegation of European parliament that visited Tiraspol last week.

"The Europarliament's delegation included specialists of low qualification, who surveyed the problem superficially, and who did not even know about the course of negotiations between Chisinau and Tiraspol," Litskay told Interfax.

Delegation members have said that Tiraspol is not interested in resolving the conflict in Dniester; it is playing for time, waiting till the Soviet Union is restored.

With reference to the sentiments prevailing in Tiraspol as to the possibility of restoring the Soviet Union Litskay said: "the Dniester administration made no official statement on this score, and to pass the outlook of local residents for the official stand is incorrect to say the least."

"The Soviet Union cannot be restored at somebody's wish. Whole republics, such as Belarus and Tajikistan, are reaching out for Russia in order to revive the union, but nobody needs them any longer. There can be no Soviet Union in its previous shape," Litskay said.

He qualified short-term visits by delegations from international organizations as useless. Litskay said he hopes that such delegations will be permanent, which will make it possible to expect tangible aid from them in resolving the problem of Dniester.

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Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev: West Should Not Lecture Kazakhs on Democracy

LD2504180895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1417 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, April 25 (Interfax)—President Nursultan Nazarbayev believes that Western countries should not lecture Kazakhstan on democracy because the decision to hold the referendum on the extension of the president's term in office is "democratic and expedient in the current situation". President Nazarbayev was speaking on Tuesday [25 April] at a meeting with the Heroes of the Soviet Union and those thrice awarded the Order of Glory in Almaty.

He said the proposal for holding the referendum on April 29 to extend his powers till the year 2000 had been put forward by the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan at its session in March. The Assembly unites 260 representative of ethnic and cultural centers of Kazakhstan.

The idea of the referendum was also supported by seven major parties and movements, including the party "Popular Congress of Kazakhstan" chaired by Olzhas Suleymenov, the chief contender for the presidency.

Nazarbayev said that he could issue the decree on the referendum himself, but he regarded the decision made by the assembly and parties as evidence of popular support. President Nazarbayev said that his success in the referendum would help him step up reforms, the struggle against crime and efforts to build a democratic society in the context of political stability and interethnic accord. He fears that holding elections in 1996 would split the people along ethnic lines.

President Nazarbayev recalled that some Western countries were critical of the idea of the referendum. "How do they dare lecture us? May they put their own house in order first. In Spain the Basques are angry about their government. Western Europe cannot do anything about Yugoslavia".

Nazarbayev believes that his country must look for its own way of development relying on what he described as universal human experience.

Local sociologists believe that Nazarbayev would win presidential elections if they were held in 1996. In 1993-1994 Nazarbayev's rating fell by 5-6 percent on the average. However, at the end of 1994 and the beginning of 1995 it began to rise again. Currently it runs at 60 percent.

President To Celebrate VE Day in Almaty

LD2504180695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1417 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, April 25 (Interfax)—President Nazarbayev announced during a meeting in his residence with heroes of the Soviet Union and those thrice awarded the Order of Glory medal on Tuesday, that he will celebrate the May-9 Victory in Almaty.

On May 6, he will take part in events commemorating the liberation of Europe from fascism in London and on May 7 in Paris.

On May 8 he will lay flowers to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier near the Kremlin Wall in Moscow and take part in a memorial meeting in Moscow. On the night of May 8 he will fly back to Almaty.

He also announced that in the morning of May 9 he will lay flowers at the Eternal Flame in the Kazakh capital, and in the afternoon attend the military parade. Then he will address the ceremonial meeting commemorating the 50th anniversary of Victory. On the same day a government reception will be held in Almaty in honor of the war veterans.

Nazarbayev said that his recent decree granted the status of war veterans to the 3,400 widows of soldiers killed during World War II who have not re-married.

He also said that the Kazakhstan authorities had instituted privileges for war veterans and citizens disabled during the war which no other CIS country has. War veterans do not pay rent and travel on public transport for free as well as receiving medical treatment in health resorts for free, and have a preferential right to housing. Citizens disabled during the war are provided with special cars.

Nazarbayev presented the Heroes of the Soviet Union and those thrice awarded the Order of Glory (about 50) with medals commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Victory along with souvenirs.

Japan Signs Agreement on Building Chromium Plants

LD2504181495 Almaty Kazakhstan Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement was signed at the Cabinet of Ministers today on cooperation in the sphere of developing Kazakhstan's chromium industry. After the documents were signed, a news conference was held.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Opening the meeting with correspondents, First Deputy Prime Minister Vitaliy Mette said that, because of the current situation in the republic's chromium industry, the need has arisen to attract foreign investment into this industry.

The Donskoy ore concentrating plant and the Aktyubinsk ferro- alloy plant, which formerly belonged to the KRAMDS non-state corporation, are experiencing hard times. Having enormous debts—they have to pay 2 billion tenge for their electricity supply alone—the enterprises have been brought to a practical standstill.

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The Japan Chromium Corporation consortium has offered its services to run and develop the chromium industry. The Mitsui limited company will implement the project. Mitsui Ltd. plans to increase the enterprises' efficiency in five years by installing modern technological equipment. Mr. Suzuki, managing director of the Japan Chromium Corporation, Mr. Mekamo, managing director of the Unico International company, and Mr. Saita, senior managing director of Mitsui Company, took part in the news conference. They told correspondents that Japanese specialists will begin to implement the agreements from tomorrow.

So, the enterprises will pay their debts, but in exchange for what? The right of the Japanese side to buy shares in the Kazakh enterprises before others. [end recording]

Anti-Nazarbayev Rally Held in Almaty

LD2504203295 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 25 Apr 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] An opposition rally took place today in Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan.

[Correspondent A. Svyazin] The upcoming referendum on extending the powers of the president of Kazakhstan until the year 2000 was the main topic of those speaking at a sanctioned rally organized in Almaty today by various political organizations. A number of political experts consider that the city authorities only allowed the rally to be held in order to confirm their commitment to democracy. In the opinion of those taking part in the rally, any appearance of democracy and law disappeared in Kazakhstan after parliament was dissolved.

Khasen Kazkhakhmetov, the of the Azat movement, stated at the rally that the mass media in the republic is conducting one-sided propaganda in favor of the referendum. Reading out an appeal by the political parties and public associations to the citizens of Kazakhstan, Mousi Ilyusizov, chairman of the Tabigat party, called for all the electorate to take part in the referendum on 29 April and to vote against extending the president's powers. In his opinion, during the 6 years of unchanging leadership in the country, Nazarbayev is to blame for virtually destroying industry, agricultural, science, and the health service.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker addressing rally] The anti-constitutional consequences of eliminating representative power, which has no parallels in history, for an indefinite period and without taking into account in any way the opinions of the electorate themselves, has given rise to a real threat of power being seized by one person—the president. [end recording]

Referendum on Presidential Term Previewed

954F2131B Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by Sergey Kozlov: "Nobody Has Any Doubts of the Referendum's Outcome: The Opposition Recedes Into the Shadows"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The upcoming republic referendum on extending Nursultan Nazarbayev's powers, to be held in two weeks, remains the No. 1 topic in Kazakhstan. All problems and economic difficulties, only recently extensively discussed both in the press and at various forums and political assemblies, have been moved to the back burner. Appraisals of the government's economic policy changed dramatically, replaced by upbeat reports on tangible results of "fulfilling the program of intensifying the reform and emerging from the economic crisis." After a considerable production decline in December-January, it suddenly turned out that already in March the national economy had begun to perform miracles—production exceeded the February level by 5.6 percent. The greatest increase was registered in the chemical industry, as well as ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy. But especially impressive is the Cabinet of Ministers' fight against inflation. This aspect of the economic policy is constantly presented as the most successful and promising. Despite the fact that prices, and especially tariffs for municipal services, literally every day torment the far-from-rich local inhabitants, official reports are soothing: In March inflation measured only 5.1 percent, which corresponds to average price increases of 0.16 percent a day, as compared to 0.78 percent on average over the period since the price decontrol in January 1992. That is, in March the inflation rate declined by a factor of 4.9.

Each day also brings reports of increasing arrests of rather high-ranking officials. The latest such action: The military procuracy arrested the republic's Deputy Minister of Defense Valeriy Sapsay, who is charged with abuse of official position.

The population is informed daily of new presidential edicts with the force of law. The most notable over the past few days were the edicts on reactivating the system of compulsory treatment of drug addicts and alcoholics and resurrecting therapeutic labor facilities, as well as the one on the status of people's deputies, as a result of which the provision on their immunity ceases to apply immediately after they fail to be re-elected or are recalled. In the past deputies were immune from prosecution for two years after surrendering their deputy mandates.

Of all the political parties, only a few—and far from the most numerous and influential ones at that—spoke up openly against the referendum. They are: Kazakhstan's civic movement Azat, the Alash party, the Slavic movement Lad, and the communists. At the same time, support for the referendum and the president was voiced the National Congress of Kazakhstan, the Popular Unity of Kazakhstan party, the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan, the Kazakhstan Revival party, and the Party of Democratic Order. One can tell with certainty that there is practically no organized and even minimally effective opposition in Kazakhstan today. The few leaders and activists who united in the National Parliament of Kazakhstan [NPK] alliance, were left on the political sidelines

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after Olzhas Suleymenov's defection to the president's camp. But oppositionists appraise the situation rather soberly and do not entertain any illusions. One of the NPK's creators, former deputy Aleksandr Peregrin, believes: "The referendum will undoubtedly result in a triumphal 'victory' for Nazarbayev. The figures were anybody's guess before the Uzbek referendum. Had it not been for the grandiose success of Islam Karimov, I think we would have probably limited ourselves to a 75 percent enthusiastic approval of Nazarbayev's policy. Now we think that 83 to 87 percent will vote for extending the president's powers."

The opposition had pinned particular hopes on Western politicians and governments influencing the Kazakhstani leadership. And it should be noted that to a certain extent these hopes were not unfounded. Although the bulk of the Kazakhstani population still remained in the dark regarding the world community's position, since the local mass media did not particularly delve into this. The EU statement calling on Kazakhstan to "return to normal political life and observance of democratic rules" (after the disbandment of the parliament), and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's remark that 25 April is a step backwards for Kazakhstan, were perceived by the opposition only as some hope that the conduct of the referendum will at least be monitored by representatives of Western organizations. We learned a few days ago, however, that no observers are expected: A number of Western embassies in Almaty made it clear that a referendum is not the same as free elections, and therefore the West does not have much interest in it, and besides, the presence of observers would mean recognizing such a form of reaffirming the powers of authority as completely legitimate...

The American ambassador in Kazakhstan, William Courtney, was also frank in this respect in an interview to one of the capital city newspapers: "We hope that after the referendum there will be honest free elections to the parliament. This is the only way democratic principles can be observed."

Industry Ministry Comments on Growth in Production

LD2604085495 Almaty Kazakh Radio First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Presenter] As is known, industry is the base and foundation of an economy. It seems that after a long crisis, the situation in this sphere has begun improving. Its basic branches at least, such as ferrous, non-ferrous metallurgy, and the chemical industry, substantially increased their output in the first quarter of this year. For instance, ferrous metallurgy increased its output by 33 percent and the chemical industry—by 80 percent. There have been improvements in other sectors as well. Now it is important not only to maintain this trend but also to start increasing production of manufactured goods. That was the topic of today's news conference held by the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

[Correspondent] Commenting on the above, Minister Garri Shtoyik said: This is only the beginning. Much work lies ahead of us. He told reporters about measures the ministry was going to take to achieve this goal. The measures include granting privileges to several enterprises in line with a resolution issued by the Cabinet of Ministers, creating new structures in cooperation with foreign partners and attracting more foreign companies to run our enterprises which have run into severe difficulties. By the way, the experience of the Pavlodar aluminium plant and that of other enterprises in the republic show that this way is effective. Garri Shtoyik gave also other examples of Kazakhstan's enterprises being brought into a healthy state. For instance, the implementation of industrial and financial projects in cooperation with Russia, when joint banks support major enterprises. So, preparations are under way to merge the Kustanay auto-diesel plant and the Ural automobile plant under mutually advantageous conditions. One of the workshops of the Tselinograd selmash [machines for agriculture] plant is to belong to the Moscow ZIL plant. At the same time, the interests of both parties will be taken into account, without causing damage to political and economic independence.

Lastly, figures indicating a growth in manufacturing industry showed that action and measures taken by the government were in line with certain leaders' initiative. So, long live initiative, long live the enterprising managers of enterprises!

KARAVAN Warehouse Fire Investigated

954F2133A Almaty KARAVAN in Russian No 14, 7 Apr 95 p 6

[Article by Yevgeniy Kosenko: "Repeated Random Events Are a Pattern"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *It has been 15 days since the mysterious paper fire at the warehouse of the KARAVAN joint-stock company. This is quite enough time to draw initial conclusions.*

In the interests of the investigation, law enforcement organs are still refraining from categorical assessments of the event, but experts invited from Moscow are inclined to favor the arson version.

All that is left now is to wait for the results of the chemical analysis to find out specifically which substances were thrown into the KARAVAN warehouse. And then will come the investigation of specifically who did this and who organized it.

In the two weeks that have passed since the day of the fire, none of the representatives of the authorities, as distinct from many simple people, have expressed sympathy to us or offered help, which tells more eloquently than any sociological poll who sympathizes with KARAVAN and who may even feel the opposite.

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On 3 April a statement was made for the press by Stanislav Ispolov, a welder working at the warehouse on the day of the fire. Stanislav Igorevich simply refused to admit guilt for the fire. Additionally, he provided some extremely valuable observations about the beginning of the fire and the wild speed with which the flames spread. Fully aware that after such commentary he could become an undesirable witness, Stanislav Igorevich expressed the fear that some serious misfortunes may befall himself and his family.

Recall that the version according to which the fire was caused by welding was significantly undermined after 28 March when an experiment was conducted in which when a roll of paper was burnt through with a welding torch it did not come close to bursting into flame.

Stanislav Ispolov's story was corroborated by fellow worker, Anatoliy Stashin. He mentioned an incident that occurred a month and a half ago when quite by accident, before work in the paper warehouse, they discovered gasoline leaking from a 10-tonne tank for fueling the KARAVAN vehicles. At that time the welders were doing a number of jobs in the garage, and were it not for their vigilance (which, incidentally, is included in the technical safety rules), a tragedy would have been inevitable. The explosion would have taken more than one human life. And then there would have been no possibility of undesirable witnesses.

And so, another random occurrence... Or is there a pattern here?

The deputy chief of the Main Investigation Administration of the Main Internal Affairs Directorate of Almaty, Erik Sultanov, stated that all versions were being carefully checked. Including the arson version. "I cannot simply announce that the fire broke out because of welding work," Mr. Sultanov emphasized in an interview with a KARAVAN-BLITS correspondent.

Since the day after the fire there has been a continuous flow of reactions from readers. Practically all of them advise us to redouble our vigilance and warn that the attacks on KARAVAN from those who find freedom of speech inconvenient will definitely continue.

It is gratifying that people continue to come to us offering help. Support from friends is always necessary at difficult times. And, it turns out, we have many friends: KARAVAN and the people are united! Possibly we will devote one of the next issues of the people's newspaper to the people's donations.

And finally, let us remind you that we will continue to keep our readers abreast of all the investigatory measures that are taken, which, we hope, will shed light on those who find it advantageous to destroy the country's largest newspaper.

Tajikistan

Premier on National Economy, Economic Reform

MM2504150795 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 95 pp 1,2

[Interview with Dzhamshed Karimov, prime minister of Tajikistan, by Aleksandr Shinkin; place and date not given: "The Tajik Economy Does Not Tolerate Fuss or Tomfoolery"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Shinkin] Reports in the Moscow mass media inform people mainly about events on the Afghan-Tajik border and the confrontation between official Dushanbe and the opposition. Everything else is overshadowed. Does this mean that there are no other problems in the republic, Dzhamshed Khilolovich?

[Karimov] We have plenty of problems. But journalists are clearly concentrating on the most urgent of those problems—the civil war. Although as the people say, and with good reason: Problems never come singly. The very severe crisis has affected all sectors of the national economy. It was caused not just by the well-known factors—the division of labor in the days of the USSR, the breakdown of economic ties, and the collapse of the money system—but also of course by internal events in the republic in recent years. No practical efforts were made to restructure the national economy. And nothing was done to develop the economy in market conditions. Furthermore, we did not even have a structure to do that.

However, the situation in the national economy is not hopeless, despite the crisis. A number of sectors of importance to the republic have been preserved here and are continuing to operate. The republic's power system is operating, albeit at a lower level, but agriculture is still "alive" and the mining and textile industries are continuing to function. All these factors create preconditions for the effective implementation of the economic reforms.

[Shinkin] But will you have to start again from scratch? As far as I recall, in 1990 and 1991 quite a lot was done to restructure the economy in Tajikistan, wasn't it?

[Karimov] At that time we were among the first to begin what I would call the "organization" of elements of the market. Some amendments were made to the republic's legislation. Commercial banks, stock exchanges, and trading houses were created. But unfortunately the civil war destroyed much of that. So in practice there is a vast amount of work to be done here. We have to act quickly to make up for lost time.

[Shinkin] As we have seen, each republic preferred to conduct the economic reforms according to its own model. Have you also chosen your own special path, Dzhamshed Khilolovich?

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[Karimov] When you are trying to catch up with a train the last thing you care about is running gracefully, as I am sure you will agree. The most important thing is to grab hold of the hand rail and jump on board. Especially since the economy, like mathematics, does not tolerate fuss or tomfoolery. You cannot deceive it with slogans.

For example, we did not delay over the liberalization of prices. Because there is no budget which can paper over the discrepancy in prices. However, in view of present-day conditions in the republic, this has not yet been extended to bread, flour, and vegetable oil.

The government also made a decision on the liberalization of foreign trade. Licenses and quotas have been abolished for all types of goods and raw materials except cotton, aluminum, silk, tobacco, leather, and mineral fertilizers. An exception, as you can see, has been made for raw materials which earn the country quite a lot of hard currency as exports. I believe that it would be madness to abandon the state's monopoly on this export when the republic is going through far from the best times.

In addition, we have raised export duties on raw materials but have reduced them on finished output. We did not have to wait long for results to appear. Despite the difficulties our cotton combine, one of the largest in the former Union, has already begun operating two shifts. Production is reviving at other enterprises, too.

[Shinkin] Your government has approved a budget in which expenditure exceeds revenue by almost one-fourth. Will that deficit not hamper the economic reforms which have begun?

[Karimov] We have no alternative but to revive the national economy and stimulate the expansion of production and the provision of various services to the population. There is only one way to achieve that—through the market economy.

We are also counting on foreign investments to a certain extent. We recently set up a state insurance company to protect them. Incidentally, foreign firms have already invested several hundred million dollars in our textile and food processing industries, gold extraction and processing, and other sectors.

[Shinkin] Then what is behind the "shake-up" of various joint enterprises, Dzhamshed Khilolovich?

[Karimov] The terms on which joint ventures used to be created no longer suit us. As a rule, the point of them was to export the republic's wealth and enable individuals to get rich. The state got nothing but losses. For example, the terms regulating gold extraction at the "Darvaz" mine were such that we were forced to sell the gold extracted in our country at London exchange prices. Our foreign partners at many textile joint enterprises did nothing but export cotton, they gave no thought to investing funds in production.

We are currently reviewing the charters of joint ventures so as to put a stop to this and organize normal, civilized cooperation with foreign investors. And we are trying to ensure that the profits do not end up in the foreign partner's bank account but are distributed in proportion to the contributions made by the joint venture's founders to the incorporation capital. We are also demanding that all settlements with foreign partners be conducted on a lease basis. In other words, that they are made using finished output, as happens in other countries.

[Shinkin] Such an undertaking hardly met with support among entrepreneurs....

[Karimov] Entrepreneurs differ. Of course, there are clans who do not like this, they have grown used to "making" money without the need for hard work. The government's task is to convince them that no one is going to save Takjikistan apart from us ourselves. Then sooner or later people will ask: Where did this kind of money come from? Where did you get it? How did you earn it? You cannot leave dishonest money to your descendants.

Many people understand that. After all, the government's task here is not to catch people and put them in prison but to create the conditions for normal entrepreneurial activity.

[Shinkin] Recently in Moscow you signed an agreement on deepening economic cooperation between the two countries. Representatives of the republic's industrial circles viewed this as a breakthrough in the creation of a common market between Tajikistan and Russia. What is the essential point of the agreement?

[Karimov] The agreement envisages that the Tajik side will regulate the main directions and the course of the economic reforms so as to create a common market with Russia based on the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor. When necessary we will get together with the Russian side and coordinate normative acts in the sphere of the market infrastructure, privatization, foreign economic activity, antimonopoly regulation, the protection of consumers' rights, and other spheres.

But the main thing is that Tajikistan's export potential will be directed toward Russia's internal market. In exchange we will receive vitally important material and technical resources, commodities, and food. Thus this is not a question of aid based on new debts but of equivalent exchange.

In addition, it is also very important for us that it will be possible to pay part of our export earnings into agents' accounts of the National Bank of Tajikistan and the Central Bank of Russia. And we have the right to bring one-half of it back to the republic to use as extra circulating capital and to pay wages.

The agreement also opens the doors wide to joint investment activity, the formation of transnational financial-industrial groups, and the implementation of projects of mutual interest.

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[Shinkin] At the end of last year the Tajikistani leadership made a number of statements on the need to introduce a national currency. Are there still rubles in the republic?

[Karimov] The ruble remains legal tender on Tajikistan's territory until the end of this year at least. The introduction of a national currency not backed up by commodity production would severely aggravate our economy's already grave state. And as a consequence the population's living standard would deteriorate.

Nor should we count on aid from the IMF. First, there are a number of political demands attached to it. Second, the scale of the aid is such that it cannot resolve our problems. Nevertheless, we are continuing to work with the IMF and other international financial organizations.

[Shinkin] You do not like to talk about politics. Is that your position of principle, Dzhamshed Khilolovich?

[Karimov] I have enough economic problems to deal with. And I have grasped the simple truth that it is not the country's leadership which feeds the people but vice versa. Thus my government's task, as I see it, is to create normal conditions for the work of the inhabitants of the republic and to ensure their security.

Spokesman Terms Intra-Tajik Meeting 'Useful'

LD2504165695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1619 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Apr—The Russian side regards the meeting in Moscow between representatives of the Tajik Government and the Tajik opposition as "important and useful," correspondents were told by Nikita Matkovskiy, official spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, here today.

He said that it has been found possible to break the prolonged lull in the intra-Tajik dialogue. Having met at the negotiating table, the sides "have been able to compare their approaches to the situation that has emerged, and to set out the way they see the paths toward national reconciliation."

"Working according to a set agenda, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said, the delegation reached consensus on a number of points. At the same time, work is continuing to achieve a rapprochement on certain issues of principle on which the sides still differ."

The Russian side, assisting in the meeting, with a special envoy of the UN secretary general mediating, is taking all the necessary steps to ensure that it yields results, he said.

What is particularly important, Nikita Matkovskiy stressed, is the "recent public statement by Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov concerning his readiness to meet the opposition leader Sayed Abdullo Nuri, to extend the ceasefire indefinitely, and to take measures to make it easier for refugees to return."

No Afghan Reaction To Protest Note on Border Clashes

LD2504180795 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1330 GMT 25 Apr 95

[Interview with Zafar Saidov, head of the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Dialogue" youth program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passsage omitted] [Saidov] A statement by the Government of Tajikistan of 8 April was distributed on the situation which has emerged in certain areas of the Tajik-Afghan border. We handed a note of protest to the Afghan side via the Embassy of Afghanistan in Dushanbe.

During the last week, because of illegal aggressive actions of fighters of the armed Tajik opposition in Badakhshan, it can be said without exaggeration that a critical situation has emerged in some areas of the Tajik-Afghan border. These provocations, in particular, the provocation of 7 April in the Kalaikhumb border detachment sector and subsequent events, connected with the attack on the first border post of the Khorog border troops, testify that the armed units of the Tajik opposition have not abandoned using military methods to solve the Tajik issue. They are continuing to gamble on military methods of tackling this issue. This, in our opinion, has caused huge damage to the peaceful political Tajik settlement process.

[Correspondent] Moreover, when the next round of inter-Tajik talks were to be held.

[Saidov] Absolutely right. It is no accident that these provocations took place on the border. We have documentary evidence, received from competent sources, which confirm that these were well-planned actions both by place and time. They occurred just as Mr. Ramiro Piriz Ballon, the UN secretary general's special envoy to Tajikistan, arrived in Dushanbe with the purpose of holding political consultations with the leaders of Tajikistan on the issue of preparing for the next round of inter-Tajik talks.

[Correspondent] The note of protest which you sent to Afghanistan, via the Embassy of Afghanistan...

[Saidov, interrupting] There has been no official reaction from the Afghan side. We considered it is necessary to draw the attention of the official powers of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to the fact that, despite our efforts, Afghanistan's territory is still being used as a bridgehead for carrying out military provocations on various sectors of the Tajik-Afghan border. [passage omitted]

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Armenia

Romanian Foreign Minister Stresses Economic Ties

NC2504204295 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan and Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Malescanu held a news conference at the Republic's guest house this evening. A report by Gevorg Nazaryan:

[Begin recording] [Nazaryan] Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan welcomed his Romanian counterpart, and told the reporters that during Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's visit to Bucharest favorable foundations were laid for the development of mutually advantageous cooperation between the two countries. He said:

[Papazyan] The time has now come to create the opportunity to implement the political agreements concluded between the two countries at the presidential and other levels in the economic sphere as well. Now that the two countries have no political differences, they will focus their attention on economic cooperation in view of the fact that both sides face economic difficulties; both are trying to make the transition from a totalitarian economy to a free market economic system and therefore both are facing similar problems and difficulties. Exchange of experience and direct cooperation could play a role here. There are a number of ways to forge this cooperation. One could be the Black Sea Economic Cooperation [BSEC] structure, or its structures. However, here [words indistinct]. The BSEC has not yet been fully formed and those mechanisms through which the member states have to cooperate have not yet been clarified. I had the opportunity to state during the BSEC foreign ministers meeting in Athens that there (?cannot) be economic cooperation as long as there still exist political differences between the member states [words indistinct]. Nevertheless, work in this direction is continuing and [words indistinct] we are working to solve this problem.

[Nazaryan] Teodor Malescanu noted that this is his first visit to the Armenian Republic and he is pleased to have a close knowledge of a country with which there are amazing historic, cultural, and spiritual similarities. The legal basis of relations between Romania and Armenia is stronger than any former Soviet republic. Romania was first to recognize Armenia's independence three years ago. At present Armenian-Romanian relations are an example for many countries. The problem is we cannot help Armenia at the state level because Romania itself is facing difficulties. But we can encourage businessmen, said the foreign minister, and added: I am sure that we will do everything to develop ties. Mr. Malescanu said that an embassy will be opened in Yerevan to enable further development of relations.

The Romanian and Armenian foreign minister replied to reporters' questions during the news conference.

Afterwards, a memorandum was signed on future relations and a protocol on the results of the visit of Mr. Malescanu. [end recording]

Netherlands To Send Election Observers

954F2130B Yerevan VREMYA in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Netherlands Will Observe Our Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "I am almost certain that we will accept your country's invitation to take part in the coming parliamentary elections in Armenia as observers," Baron de Vos van Steewijk, ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Russian Federation, declared at a news conference. The ambassador and staff of the embassy are closely following the economic reforms and the reforms in other spheres that are being implemented in Armenia.

The baron observed, in particular, that he had noticed certain changes during this visit. "There is light at the end of the tunnel. There is undoubtedly still a long way to go, but it may already be said in what direction the country is developing," the ambassador said.

Opposition Lacks Pre-Election United Front

954F2130C Yerevan VREMYA in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 2

[Article by Artem Yerkanyan under the heading "Political Solo": "In Order Not To Divide Up the Bear's Hide You Have To Kill It Yourself"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sixteen days remain until the end of the time allowed for the presentation of the lists of candidates for deputy on the proportional-voting principle. Over two dozen social and political organizations believe that they can surmount the 5 percent vote barrier specified by law. Only one-fifth of the seats will be dispersed by the party-list system, and dazzling results shown by this party or the other on the proportional-voting principle will still not signify success at the elections as a whole. Nonetheless, it is on the lists that certain opposition parties which have a pretty good approval rating, but which lack working structures locally, are counting.

That more members of the opposition than supporters of the pro- president alliance will be elected by party list is obvious. But the fact that interparty consultations have simply not led to the creation of a united front will be reflected in the productiveness of the election campaign, for all that. The opposition has nothing to counterpose to the apparent cohesion of the bloc of the right.

The communists were the first to declare that they intend to conduct the election campaign independently. The

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Communist Party of Armenia has successfully dissociated itself from all the forces that would like to enter into an alliance with it in order to avail themselves of its high approval rating. The forecasts concerning the creation of an alliance of parties of the left have not been justified on account of the serious contradictions among their leaders. The agrarians are continuing to look for new partners. The leaders of the Labor Union, which took shape around former First Secretary Stepan Pogosyan, having been rebuffed at the last plenum of the Communist Party of Armenia Central Committee, have found themselves forced to look for allies elsewhere. The members of the communist faction in parliament, who have been threatened with expulsion from the party and who have been discouraged from laying claim to seats from the lists, have recognized "who wears the pants" also.

The National Democratic Union also, of course, sees in itself sufficient forces for surmounting the 5 percent barrier. Consequently, there is no sense in it forming a bloc with opposition associates either. The president's forecasts that the National Democratic Union will unite with the National Progress Union will not, by all accounts, come to pass.

The Ramkavary, who three months ago broke off relations with the bloc of the right, are in no need of allies. The Christian Democrats from the ONS have been unable to come to an arrangement with anyone yet. It cannot be ruled out that they also will decide to form a list of candidates independently. This will depend on the success of the continuing consultations with the leaders of the ARFD [Dashnaktsutyun Armenian Revolutionary Federation].

The Dashnaktsakany, deprived of legal ways of participation in the proportional voting, are in a special situation. The question of the activity of the ARFD will be heard, at best, at the end of July. So the Dashnaktsakany will not be able to present their own lists in the Central Election Commission. It is obvious today even that the party intends to enter into an informal alliance with any organization and to present its candidates under the flag of its partner prepared to content itself with a negligible number of its own people on the party list. It is perfectly possible that the Constitutional Law Union, whose cooperation with the ARFD is the most likely to bear fruit, will be this partner (or one of the partners perhaps).

The bloc that takes shape around the Dashnaktsutyun will not, most likely, be the sole association of opposition forces jointly forming party lists. Other interparty formations like the Union of Monarchical Forces, which has already announced its formation, or the inseparable tandem of the Union of the Intelligentsia and the Artsakh-Armenia organizations will appear, most likely. It is possible that the left, short-changed by the communists, will reach a conclusion as to the advisability of cohesion also. But it is hard to believe in the success of the attempts of such formations to obtain seats by means of the proportional voting.

As far as the majority voting is concerned, the harmonization of the actions of the opposition is in doubt here also. If the purpose is considered to be implementation of the slogan "No constituency without an opposition deputy," it will not be hard to achieve it, of course. But the sharing of constituencies among the parties of the Union of National Accord promises to take place in a very complex situation, which will undoubtedly be reflected in the success of the campaign of the "united opposition."

Contradictions in the camp of the right could prove no less serious, for that matter, the only difference being that it will be harder for information concerning conflicts within the pro-president alliance to become public property. Whereas in the Union for National Accord the contradictions will be connected with the nomination of candidates for specific constituencies, the right, which firmly believes that it is in the right, will be worried more by the question of the sharing of portfolios, not seats. Yesterday's members of the opposition, now election-bloc allies of the ruling party, will try to shake loose from the Armenian National Movement guarantees that, in the event of election victory, representation in the cabinet will be proportionate to the ratio of seats allocated within the alliance. The ideologues of the National Movement will counter this, however, with the argument that the Armenian National Movement took the executive power, concentrated in the hands of the president, in 1991 individually, without the aid of the present partners, to put it no more strongly—against their active opposition (two of the leaders of the parties of the bloc of the right took part in the election race as competitors of Levon Ter- Petrosyan and Gagik Arutyunyan). Neither the president himself nor his new associates know, perhaps, what will come of this. But, as distinct from their opponents, they clearly recognize the absence of an alternative to unity, which the opposition is finding so hard to come by.

Dashnaks To Participate in Jul Elections

954F2130D Yerevan VREMYA in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 2

[Tigran Oganesyan "exclusive" report: "Trial or Elections. Which Comes First?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The Dashnaktsutyun Party, whose activity was suspended on 13 January 1995 for a period of six months by a ruling of the Supreme Court, will take part in the elections to the National Assembly scheduled for 5 July, Grayr Karapetyan, member of the ARFD [Dashnaktsutyun Armenian Revolutionary Federation] Central Committee, announced.**

He called the boycotting of the elections on the part of the ARFD pointless since this would do nothing. In Karapetyan's opinion, the authorities' imposition of the ban on the activity of the Dashnaks pursued, in the main, the goal of barring them from the elections, although there were other motives also. He termed no

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accident the hasty scheduling of the elections—for 5 July—since this timeframe prevents the ARFD taking part in the elections officially. "It is clear even now that the possible participation of the Dashnak Party has the authorities seriously frightened," the member of the ARFD Central Committee said. According to him, the Dashnaktsutyun regards seats in parliament as an additional lever for the fight against the policy being pursued by the present authorities inasmuch as the Dashnaks' mission is not struggle against specific persons representing the leadership but against the policy they are pursuing, both domestic and foreign. Karapetyan observed that three main political forces are emerging in Armenia on the eve of the elections—the Armenian National Movement with its satellites representing the so-called bloc of the right, the Dashnaktsutyun together with other national forces, and the Communist Party of Armenia, which has discredited itself and whose main hope is the voters' memory. Karapetyan also announced that no in any way serious proof in connection with the charges brought against the more than 20 detained Dashnaks had yet been advanced on the part of the authorities. "The authorities intend, by all accounts, to try these persons right before the elections in order to discredit our party conclusively," he declared.

Speaking about the adoption on 6 April by the European Parliament of a resolution condemning the edict of the president of the Republic of Armenia of 28 December 1994 banning the activity of the ARFD, Karapetyan said that, generally, the Dashnaktsutyun is not a supporter of internal matters of Armenia becoming a topic of broad discussion on the part of international organizations, but the ARFD, being an all-Armenia party and having members in many countries, believes that the question of the Dashnaks cannot be merely an intra-republic matter. According to him, many countries and international organizations, including civil rights organizations, have inquired about the suspension of the activity of the Dashnak Party. And it is not the Dashnaks who are to blame for this but the authorities, which were not expecting this, Karapetyan believes. "Everything now depends on how the authorities react. We do not want the authorities to disgrace themselves on account of ill-considered steps. The entire responsibility for what is happening lies with them, and the sooner an end is put to this disgrace, the better," the Dashnak leader declared.

Parliament Divided on Draft Election Law

954F2142A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 95 pp 1-2

[Article by Armen Khanbabyan: "The National Assembly Will Be Semi-Professional: The Opposition Has Sustained a Defeat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the fact that less than three months remain until parliamentary elections, there were few in Armenia who believed that this Supreme Council would adopt a new election act. The factions of the parties that are a part of the opposition Union of National Accord made no secret of the fact that they would block it unless they obtained significant concessions from the ruling coalition of the right. With this distribution the parliamentary majority agreed to the election of one-fourth of the deputies of the future National Assembly by party list and to the fact that the new legislative body would be small in composition and strictly professional. The latter circumstance, however, ran into resistance on the part of the 70 deputies who combine their mandates with work in the executive bodies. In addition, no compromise was reached on the question of a referendum held in parallel with the elections on a new constitution enshrining the lead role of the head of state—the president.

A special session of the Supreme Council devoted to these issues culminated without result. This afforded President Levon Ter-Petrosyan a pretext for observing that the deputies were pursuing opportunist ends and running the risk of leaving the country without a legislative body and a basic law altogether. After all, had the elections to be held according to the old law, which establishes a high plank of an election quorum, the formation of the National Assembly would under the conditions of the obvious apathy of the electorate have been very dubious.

It was obvious that the opposition was prepared to sacrifice the compromise draft act to bar a referendum on the constitution, on which the bloc of the right headed by the Armenian National Movement was unswervingly insisting. A crisis whose solution politically would have been complicated could have arisen in this connection, and this would have predetermined the intervention of the president. But owing to the weakness of the legal base and with the absence of a constitution, all steps of the head of state could have appeared insufficiently proper and could have served as a pretext for a wide-ranging campaign "to save democracy." Under these conditions the governing coalition agreed to concessions to the deputies representing the district component of the executive. It was decided that they could continue to combine their work with parliamentary activity. In addition, it was decided to enlarge the National Assembly from 120 to 190 persons. This afforded grounds for calling the future parliament transitional and semi-professional.

The next, regular, session of the Supreme Council, which usually suffers from a chronic lack of a quorum, mustered (the other day) a record number of participants—more than 200. The alliance of the governing majority and the district leaders made it possible to break the resistance of the opposition and to secure the adoption of all the basic postulates of the law on elections requiring a necessary majority. It was decided to lower the election quorum in the first round of the elections from 50 to 25 percent, and for the second round, to remove all limitations whatever; to allow the nomination of all candidates, other than members of the government, employees of the power and law enforcement authorities, and judges. It was confirmed also that 150 deputies

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would be elected according to the majority principle, and 40, by party list. And, most important, the Supreme Council agreed with the organization of a referendum on the new constitution, approval of the draft of which in parliament will require merely a simple majority vote.

The ruling circles saw the results of the voting as a palpable victory for the liberal democratic forces. Levon Zubaryan, the president's press spokesman, emphasized that with the adoption of the constitution there would be "an end to the fruitless struggle connected with the distribution of authority among the branches of power, and the National Assembly will get down to serious lawmaking. We can only advise the opposition to take its defeat courageously."

But the defeats are doing little, evidently, to contribute to a consolidation of efforts. The last opposition demonstration mustered fewer than 2,000 persons. And it is being rumored persistently that the parties that are a part of the Union for National Accord will head into the elections not in a bloc but by themselves. The results of the parliamentary voting have conclusively split the Communist Party also. All 19 deputies of the communist faction voted together with the majority, which was reason for the radicals in the Central Committee Bureau to accuse them of selling out. In turn, faction leader Makhitaryan considers the policy of his own Central Committee and its leadership destructive. The contradictions have gone so far that the Communist Party Bureau recently announced the disbandment of the communist faction in parliament and that the Central Committee would consider the question of the continuance of the renegades in the party ranks. The renegades, in turn, are preparing to respond to this with the formation of a new center-left organization, which will, of course, weaken the campaign positions of the communists, who prior to this had been considered a serious political force.

Azerbaijan

Baku Refuses To Sign CIS Border Agreement

NC2504200495 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] CIS foreign ministers held their regular session in Moscow. The question of the protection of the external borders of the CIS countries were discussed at the meeting. Republic's Deputy Foreign Minister Tofik Zulfugarov, who is heading the Azerbaijani delegation, did not sign the document submitted on this issue. He stated that it is not possible to sign the submitted document at a time when a 132-km-long section of the Azerbaijan-Iran border and a part of the Republic's territory is under the occupation of Armenia.

Ministry Denies Involvement in Arms Found in Dagestan

NC2504203495 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 25 Apr 95

[Statement by the National Security Ministry Border Troops Command—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The news program of the Russian ORT television-radio company carried an item on 24 April to the effect that the arms and military hardware found in the vehicles detained in Dagestan were allegedly being dispatched from Azerbaijan to Chechnya.

In connection with this report, the National Security Ministry Border Troops Command contacted Russia's Special Border Troops Department in northern Caucasus, and following an exchange of information it transpired that the vehicles in question belong to the Russian Federation and their drivers were Russian citizens residing in Dagestan.

According to the information at the hands of the National Security Ministry Border Troops Command, it is possible that the vehicles in question were rather attempting to enter Azerbaijan from Russia. In this connection, the Russian Border Troops Command was told that it cannot be ruled out that forces on both sides trying to create tension between our countries may attempt to take advantage of the transparency of the Russian-Azerbaijani border.

The National Security Ministry Border Troops Command declares that there has been, and there cannot be, any case of transfer of arms from the Republic to Russia. The Azerbaijan National Security Ministry Border Troops Command called on the Russian side to send a delegation for a joint investigation of the aforesaid incident. No reply has been received so far.

Former Oil Boss Criticizes Consortium Agreement

LD2504203595 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, April 25, IRNA—Former head of the Azerbaijan Republic's oil company, Sabet Baqerev, said here on Tuesday [25 April] that western countries making up the Azeri consortium will not go ahead with major investment until the formulation of a legal system of the Caspian Sea. In an interview with IRNA, Baqerev said absence of a legal system of the Caspian Sea is the main reason which discourages investment in the region.

The former head of the Azeri oil company said negotiations should be held to speed up formulation of a legal system of the Caspian, which will benefit all littoral states. He deplored that according to the conditions of the agreement signed with the western oil consortium, Azerbaijan has lost the power to make any independent

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decision. Baqerev regretted that the republic has conceded its right to determine the route for the oil pipeline, whereas, in the draft agreement, Azerbaijan was entitled to do so, and had suggested that the pipeline should pass via Iran and Turkey.

The 8-billion dollar agreement for exploration of oil in the caspian was signed on September 20. The off-shore field is believed to contain four billion barrels of oil. U.S. companies possess 45 percent of the shares of the consortium. Under pressure from America, Azerbaijan unilaterally cancelled its agreement with Iran for 20 percent investment in its own share of the contract with the consortium.

Observers have called the decision "unwise" considering the fact that Iran also shares the Caspian Sea basin which [words indistinct] to be rich in hydrocarbon reserves. Presently Iran and the other four Caspian Sea states—Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan—are busy finalizing the draft of the Caspian Cooperation Council in order to protect the environment of the world's largest inland sea.

Georgia

Georgia Calls For Russian Naval Blockade of Abkhazia

LD2504181195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 25 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, April 25 (Interfax)—Georgia called for a total blockade of the separatist regime in Abkhazia at the Friday meeting of the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers, Aleksandre Chikvaidze, Georgia's foreign minister, told journalists in Tbilisi Tuesday [25 April].

He said that a note requesting that the Russian Navy close the sea route between Sukhumi and the Turkish coast had been sent to the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Chikvaidze said that this issue will be clarified at the CIS summit on May 26.

He added that the Council of Foreign Ministers had supported the proposal that the functions of the peacekeeping force in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone be extended, in particular that the force perform policing functions.

Chikvaidze said that the council had decided to set up a commission to define the functions of the peacekeeping force.

UN Mission Car Strikes Mine in Abkhazia

LD2504123595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1218 GMT 25 Apr 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 25 (ITAR-TASS)—A car belonging to the U.N. military observer mission in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict has struck a radio-controlled mine, laid by a saboteur group. There were two staff members of the mission from Britain in the car, Igor Akhba, official representative of Abkhazia in Russia, told ITAR-TASS. None of them was injured during the explosion.

The public prosecutor's office of the Gali District of Abkhazia, where the incident took place, began to investigate it. The fact that the mission reported the incident only on Monday [24 April], while it took place in the evening of April 23, makes the investigation more difficult, Akhba said.

According to Akhba, saboteur and terrorist actions of Georgian armed groups on the territory of Abkhazia are getting more and more sinister. Fighters, who penetrate into the Gali District, kill civilians and representatives of the local administration, but it is the first time they attacked officials of the U.N. observer mission. Its staff members travel in white cars with clearly seen identification marks, and it is easy to distinguish them from cars of local officials even at night.

The act of terrorism was expected to worsen the situation on the eve of the prolongation of the mandate of the U.N. Peacekeeping Force, whose command maintains close contacts with the missions and regularly exchanges information, Akhba continued. Appeals to settle the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict by means of force are also kindling extremist feelings. He believes, however, that long-term peace and accord can be established in the region only with the help of a political settlement.

Abkhazia Appeals to Russia To Drive Out Criminals

LD2504131295 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1200 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The KONTAKT news agency reports that the Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia issued the following statement:

The Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia has repeatedly reported that bases for training militants to be sent to the conflict zone in the north Caucasus have been set up on the occupied territories of Abkhazia. Now that the Russian federal troops have clamped down considerably on the illegal armed formations in Chechnya, the Chechen militants, by agreement with [Abkhaz separatist leader Vladislav] Ardzinba, are infiltrating Abkhaz territory. This is not surprising because, as is known, Sukhumi has been declared the capital of the confederation of the Caucasian peoples. Such a development of events may mean increased freedom from punishment and therefore a convergence of criminal elements in the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia is quite logical.

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We again appeal to the Russian president and to the Command of the peacekeeping forces not to allow a fresh surge of separatism in Abkhazia. Please act immediately to eradicate criminal actions on the occupied territories of Abkhazia.

Ardzinba Denies Shevardnadze Claim of Chechen Deal

LD2504173295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1417 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 25 (Interfax)—Abkhazian President Vladislav Ardzinba said that "Shevardnadze's statement about a secret deal between the Abkhazian authorities and the Chechen militants on the location of Chechen bases in Abkhazia is yet another lie concocted by the Georgian special services and shamelessly circulated by the Georgian leader."

Shevardnadze made his statement about the connection in an interview with national radio on Monday [24 April].

"The goal of this lie is to denigrate the Abkhazian people and leaders and use Russia for putting pressure on Abkhazia in the interests of Georgia," said the press service of the Abkhazian mission in Moscow.

"It is not surprizing that this lie was concocted after the All- Abkhazian Assembly, which urged Russia once again to admit Abkhazia into Russia," stated Ardzinba.

He is convinced that "Georgia, which received Abkhazia as a gift from Stalin, is doing everything it can to denigrate the multi-ethnic population of Abkhazia."

Sources Say Abkhaz Separatists Preparing for Combat

LD2504153395 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1300 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—An agency correspondent has learned from reliable sources that the leadership of Vladislav Ardzinba has recently started active preparations for possible combat actions. In the view of observers, this was triggered by talk about the refugees' return to their homes in May. As Ardzinba does not intend to sign a single document on a peaceful settlement of the conflict (including the unhindered return of the refugees), he and his milieu are spreading rumors about the intention of the Georgian troops to start combat actions, thus justifying their actions.

The same source reports that the Abkhaz side is buying arms in large batches and smuggling them to Abkhazia. People are being recruited in various towns of Russia (this time north Caucasians are not being gambled on). A group of 75 purpose-trained mercenaries has already been put in Abkhazia.

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Latvia

Gailis on Army's Role, Discipline Problems

LD2604101195 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 24 Apr 95

[From the "Junda" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As you already know, on 21 April, at the initiative of the state president, a joint meeting of representatives of the National Armed Forces of the Republic of Latvia, the commanders of the Interior Ministry forces, and the public was held. The discussion concerned what is at present, unfortunately, a very painful issue: the problems of military discipline. Many authoritative people spoke, and it is to be hoped that these good undertakings to put the army's affairs in order in the nearest future will not remain mere protocols of good intentions. Ainars Asaks and (?Bronislavs Spridzanis) have conducted interviews with the meeting's participants for the "Junda" program, but to begin, here is a fragment of what was said on Friday by Maris Gailis, the current prime minister and defense minister, about the significance of the army at present and in the future:

[Begin Gailis recording] Esteemed State President, officers, soldiers, ladies and gentlemen: Concurring with what the president has said, the government's stance also is such that society must be strengthened. The idea has predominated that without instruments of armed defense, the state has no prospect, since Latvia, because of its geographic and historic situation, will be for a long time within the sphere of interest of a large neighbor, namely Russia. If we ourselves do not fight in the event of a military crisis, then no one else will come to our aid. And looking at our work and the population of the country, neighboring nations must be convinced that Latvia will not diverge from its chosen path without a struggle, and I have to say, without bloodshed. Of course we hope for helpers, for friends, but in case of need, the decision undoubtedly will be taken by us. That means that the National Armed Forces must become a symbol of the Latvian nation's self respect. But of course the Defense Forces rely not only on material resources, financial resources, but on the best of our young men. Unfortunately, at present, owing to inadequate legislation, the army lacks sufficient motivated, thinking [word indistinct] people. We think that if we love our country, then the justification for youths not serving in the army can only be the failings of health or cases where one has to care for people who have no one else to provide for them. That of course does not mean that young men ought to be taken away from their studies, but undoubtedly they must serve for a certain period, each one ought to. But there is no doubt that we must stamp out this situation—that is, extra-regulatory relations [refers to bullying]—in order to achieve that goal.

What must be done to eliminate these violations of discipline? Of course the answer is not simple, and here we must use many and various methods. In any case, in order to eliminate violations of discipline in the army, everyone must work and without doubt must take responsibility, too. The most important person to attend to discipline in the National Armed Forces is undoubtedly the commander, as the person of the commander, his moral qualities, his concern for the soldiers under him, his consistent adoption of resolutions and their fulfillment, his intolerance of alcohol consumption during service time, is very important. And it must become true, then, that the service career of a commander will depend on the order he is able to impose on the units under him.

At the same time, the ministry, the government, must pay much more attention to the welfare of officers and soldiers as well, making it possible for military personnel to support their families in a normal way. They must be provided with service apartments, and the local authorities must at last start observing the law in ensuring the provision accordingly of service apartments to military personnel, and not handing these apartments over to tenants with money, as is probably the case in every town, unfortunately. Undoubtedly, pensions, and state insurance too, must come within our purview. We must improve the conscription process, because undoubtedly it cannot be permitted that there are people serving in the army who have convictions or who have physical or psychological problems. I think that by working together, it is possible to reduce, and later to eradicate, violations of discipline in the National Armed Forces. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Coalition of 'Democratic Leftist Forces' Formed

WS2504100395 Riga DIENA in Latvian 17 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Juris Tihonovs: "Coalition of Leftists Established"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riga, 13 Apr—Representatives of several political and social organizations announced today that they reached a general agreement on 12 April to create a coalition of democratic leftist forces, in view of the upcoming elections to the 6th Saeima [parliament].

Andris Silins, chairman of the Association of Free Trade Unions [LBAS], reported at a news conference that five organizations are already prepared to join the coalition—the Latvian Socialist Democratic Workers Party [LSDSP], Latvian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP], Latvian Party for Defense of Deceived People "Taisniba" [Justice], the Central Committee of Latvian Trade Unions, and LBAS. The Federation of Pensioners, Union of the Poor, Association of Invalids, and Association of Chernobyl Victims also expressed their consent to join the coalition at a later date.

LSDSP Chairman Janis Dinevics stated that the coalition will go in for obtaining mandates for leftist forces in the 6th Saeima, because in the present Saeima they are not represented at all.

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Chairman of the LDDP Juris Bojars emphasized that the coalition will not include either communists or leftist radicals, but forces orientated toward the state. The platform of the coalition will be based on the policy of labor and social democracy. He added that the coalition partners will have to agree on mutual obligations, which will bind them with obligations if they succeed in entering the Saeima. Bojars says that if he himself is not able to run in the elections, the first name on the LDDP candidate list will be A. Silins.

Silins expressed the hope that the coalition will be able to raise the necessary funds for the election campaign, pointing out that the LBAS itself collected 6 million lats from membership dues last year.

Revenue Department Chief Dismissed Due to Budget Deficit

WS2604115095 Riga RIGAS BALSS in Latvian 18 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Uldis Dreiblats: "Director of the State Revenue Department Dismissed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the first three months of this year, state expenditures have already exceeded the revenues by 43 million lats [L]. The sum exceeds the maximum budget deficit for the year, as determined by law, by L3 million. Due to this, payment of salaries to people working in state budget institutions may be delayed.

In January and February, budget revenues usually come in more slowly. This year, however, the situation of the state budget keeps growing worse even in March and April.

As was announced, Director of the State Revenue Department [VID], Juris Pupcenoks, was dismissed yesterday. VID Press Secretary, Raitis Averats, confirmed the news this morning, adding that Pupcenoks refrains from any comments.

To avoid paying taxes has become a widespread habit all over the country, and the VID is being constantly criticized for its incompetence and indolence in collecting the due tax payments fixed by the law. The government is also being blamed for negligence in this field. Numerous promises to deal with the situation have remained unfulfilled.

Apparently, the severe budget deficit and the dismissal of the VID director seem to be a logical consequence of the government's financial activities. Yet, the question—will the situation be cured by the dismissal of one official—remains unanswered...

Lithuania

Russian Military Aircraft Banned From Overflight

WS2404145795 Tallinn BNS in English 1200 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Apr 24, BNS—Last legal flight of Russia's military aircraft over Lithuania took place on Saturday after the Lithuanian parliament had decided not to tolerate such flights.

Sources in the air control service told BNS that the Russian military cargo aircraft AN-72, on route from Kaliningrad to Moscow, entered the Lithuanian airspace over the settlement of Krasnoznamensk at 13:24 and left it over the village of Lavoriskis at 13:43.

A permit for this flight was issued by Lithuania's Foreign Ministry on April 19.

After the incident of March 19, when three Russian military helicopters flew low over the residential districts of Vilnius, Lithuania restricted the flights of Russia's military aircraft through its air space. Only a few permits were issued for military cargo flights in April.

On April 18 the Seimas [parliament] passed a resolution which states that military flights threaten Lithuania's security and shall not be tolerated.

High-ranking officials at the Foreign Ministry say that the words "shall not be tolerated" may be interpreted as "shall not be allowed". Therefore, they will no longer be able to issue permits for Russia's military flights through Lithuanian air space.

The Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department told BNS that the Russian embassy in Vilnius had been informed about the resolution and its provisions. However, no official response has been received as yet.

Overflight Ban Called Temporary

LD2504122595 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2130 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys told a news conference on 24 April that Russian military flights over Lithuania had been halted only temporarily, although the rules for these flights will become more strict.

A resolution passed earlier by the Lithuanian parliament that states such flights are dangerous and will not be tolerated is not binding for the Foreign Ministry, Gylys said.

According to Gylys, the State Defense Council has issued instructions to draw up the new transit rules. However, it did not ban foreign flights through Lithuanian airspace. The new set of rules should be completed by 1 June. [passage omitted]

Vilnius Restates Protest Over Latvia Oil Contract

LD2404154895 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lithuania has reiterated that it will under no conditions acknowledge the agreements Latvia has concluded with third countries for oil exploration and exploitation in Lithuanian coastal waters.

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Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Rimantas Sidlauskas received Latvian Ambassador to Vilnius Alberts Sarkanis on Friday [21 April] and told him that in the spirit of good-neighborly relations, Lithuania was prepared to begin new talks with Latvia to define the sea border.

The meeting was prompted by a note from the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 18 April, which said that the contract between the Latvian Government and the Amoco Corporation of the United States would come into force only after the Latvian-Lithuanian sea border had been defined, and proposed to start negotiating the issue.

Sidlauskas told the Latvian ambassador that Lithuania would adhere to its position that was expressed in the note of 4 April. Lithuania regards as a violation of its sovereign rights the negotiations that began in 1992 between the Latvian Government and the Amoco Corporation for oil exploration and exploitation in Lithuanian coastal waters.

Brazauskas Responds to Money Laundering Accusation

LD2404194195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1811 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, April 24 (INTERFAX)—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas has described as irresponsible the article in the RESPUBLIKA newspaper accusing the leaders of the Democratic Labor Party of money laundering.

In a routine interview on national radio Monday, he said that the Communist Party of Lithuania, which broke from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union at the end of 1989 and later transformed into the Democratic Labor Party, has been abiding by the law as proven by numerous audits.

Brazauskas said that while his party had been in opposition, they knew that any departure from the law would be magnified out of all proportion and so made a point of strictly abiding by the law.

He expressed the hope that the State Comptroller Department and the Prosecutor General's Office will, in line with last week's presidential decree, thoroughly check the legality of how party assets are used, inform society on their findings and quell passions.

Three Factions Oppose Sale of Land to Foreigners

WS2604090395 Tallinn BNS in English 1815 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Apr 25, BNS—Three oppositional parliamentary [factions] declared Tuesday [25 April] that they will not approve an amendment to the Constitution permitting sale of land to the foreigners.

The opposition said it will oppose it until the land is returned to its pre-war owners.

Article 47 of the recent Lithuanian Constitution bans the sale of land to foreign nationals.

In a letter addressed to President Algirdas Brazauskas, the leaders of three opposition factions—democrats, nationalists, and former political prisoners and deportees—note that they acknowledge the importance of Lithuania's integration into the European Union and do not reject the possibility of amending Article 47. However, such an amendment should be made only after "ownership rights to property are fully restored and the interests of Lithuanian nationals protected by a general agreement".

The opposition leaders point out that relevant laws, guaranteeing such rights and interests, should be worked out and put into effect simultaneously with the constitutional amendment.

The authors of the letter stress that they cannot approve of the proposed amendment to Article 47 submitted for parliamentary discussions last February.

According to the Lithuanian Constitution, all amendments must be discussed and voted by parliament twice. Not less than two thirds of all parliamentary votes are required each time. The number of votes held by the three opposition factions would not be enough to prevent a constitutional amendment to be passed, if the rest of MPs vote in favour of such an amendment.

Last March seven parliamentary factions, including the governing Democratic Labour faction and the major opposition forces, declared their readiness to draw up and pass an amendment to Article 47 in an attempt to negotiate an associate agreement between Lithuania and the European Union.

Among the other factions to sign this statement in March were the Democratic Party and the Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees.

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